THE TIMES

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Passports for pets within two years

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

BRITAIN'S 100-year-old quarantine rules, the toughest in the world, are to be scrapped within two years for animals imported from rabies-free countries.

Nick Brown, the Agriculture Minister, is ready to announce before Easter a move to a system of "passports for pets," which identify animals by micochip and vaccine record. The checks could even be piloted at one or two ports before the end of the year.

Eurotunnel has offered to set up a control centre at Coquelles, on the French side of the Channel, and officials from the Agriculture Ministry are to visit the site soon.

The change will bring particular joy to diplomatic and Service families as well as to many expatriates living on the Continent.



The change will mean that for £150 a year plus £60 a year for follow-up vaccines and checks, owners will be able to take their pets on holiday to destinations in Europe, New Zealand and Australia. The border check is expected to cost about £20.25 per animal.

Animals will also have to be checked by a veterinary surgeon 24 hours before re-entering Britain and to be treated for ticks and deloused.

The present cost of six months' quarantine varies between £1,500 and £2,000, but the law will remain in force for animals coming from Eastern Europe, Africa, Asia and South America.

The Ministry of Agriculture is still analysing the position on North America and Canada and ministers intend to start negotiations with the Irish Government; without its agreement it is possible that anti-rabies controls would have to be maintained in Northern Ireland and residents there would not be able to have pet passports.

The switch to pet passports is to be accompanied by a campaign highlighting pet owners' new responsibilities.

Mr Brown wants to implement the change to curb the smuggling of pets into Britain by owners who cannot afford the cost or disapprove of confinement in quarantine. Officially there have been 800 animal-smuggling cases in the past ten years, but the Government believes thousands of owners are escaping detection.

Tony Blair is backing the change and is keen for Mr Brown to speed up its implementation, but John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, last week raised questions. It is understood he is concerned that the new controls will place extra burdens on airports and ferry companies.

Mr Brown, however, believes he can convince his Cabinet colleagues that the move is a sensible one, especially after the scientific case in favour of the microchip and vaccine was backed by an independent report to the Government by Professor Ian Kennedy, of University College London.

That report suggested that it would take three years to end quarantine and introduce passports, but Mr Brown believes that at most two years are needed to implement the change and to ensure that veterinary inspectors receive adequate training.

The move to pet passports can be achieved without primary legislation and Mr Brown is keen to push through an amendment to the Rabies (Importation of Dogs, Cats and other Mammals) Order, 1974.

A three-month public consultation on the issue has found that 90 per cent of submissions favour the proposed scheme.

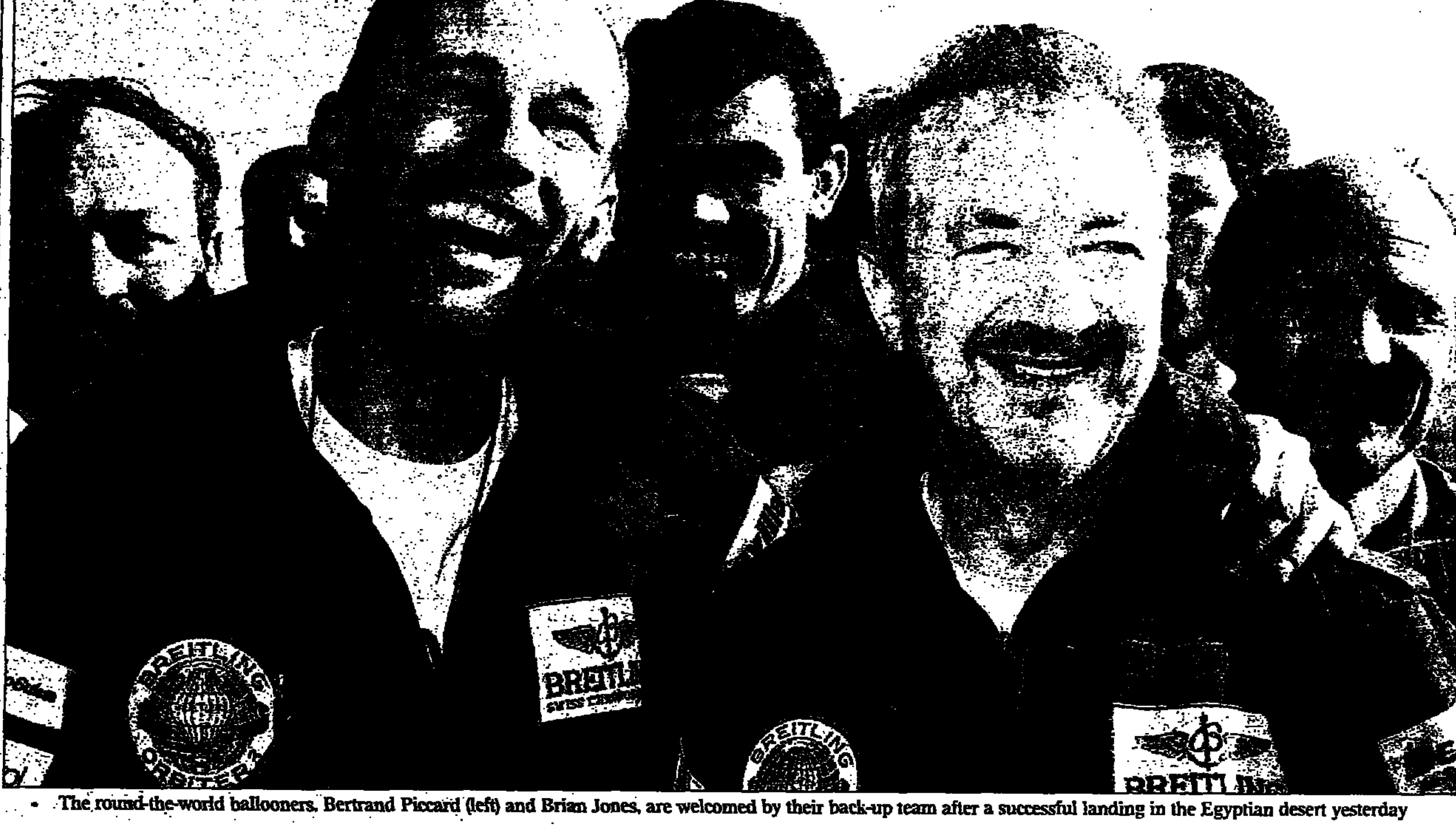
Last night, however, Lady Fretwell, chairman of Passports for Pets, which has 10,000 members, made clear that she would not be satisifed with another two-year wait. "We are desperate to hear news from Mr Brown," she said. "But if it is two years, we shall step up the fight.

"There is no justification for locking up another 18,000 animals over two years. When the tests are safe, and proven to be so, it would be morally disgraceful to go on locking up these cats and dogs."

More than 5,000 dogs and 3,000 cats are confined to quarantine every year; 1,200 animals have died in quarantine kennels in the past ten years.

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The round-the-world ballooners, Bertrand Piccard (left) and Brian Jones, are welcomed by their back-up team after a successful landing in the Egyptian desert yesterday

Balloonists bounce into the record books

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

THE spirit of William Boot was alive and well in Egypt yesterday as newsmen and the Breitling rescue team raced to find the two record-breaking balloonists at their remote landing spot in the inhospitable Western Desert more than 350 miles from Cairo.

Undeterred by the fact that the Persian conqueror Cambyses managed to lose an entire army of 50,000 men in the neighbouring sands in 524BC, the hacks and the technical experts set out in a fleet of four-wheel-drive vehicles, at least one private plane and even an Egyptian military aircraft, which charged its passengers $1,000 (£615) for a window seat.

Buffeting winds and an impending sandstorm around the Pyramids at Giza destroyed the long-held dream of the British balloonist, the former caterer Brian Jones, of landing among the tombs of the Pharaohs. Instead, the 9 tonne balloon bounced down 44 miles west of a fly-blown oasis town called Mut (pronounced Moot), an ancient Roman outpost which stood on an African trade route at the time of Nero.

Perhaps with the advantage of the whole area being full of military installations, it was an Egyptian military helicopter which eventually flew the two men to Cairo.

"They touched down very gently," said Don Cameron, whose Bristol-based company manufactured the balloon. "They were very close to empty [on fuel]. They had to land today. There was no question of going another night. It was very tight."

The balloonists originally tried to land on a desert road but as they were coming down, ice fell off the balloon and it rose, bouncing once more before coming to rest on soft sand about 15 miles from the road in a featureless moonscape where day temperatures often rise to 120F (49C) or more.

Describing the landing, the flight controller Alan Noble said: "It landed at 6am GMT. We were with them. They made three attempts. We gave them five out of ten for the first attempt, seven out of ten for the second and ten out of ten for the third. The balloon was undamaged."

In addition to the difficulties of the terrain, the press pursuers and the would-be rescuers had to face Egypt's notorious red tape which strangled efforts by Fleet Street's finest to hire a giant helicopter on offer from an adventurous Egyptian pilot in Port Said.

Mr Noble, assisted by his battery of computers, was first on the scene, but was unable to land near the deflating balloon (a two-hour process) and put down on a strip at the oasis of Dakhla.

A Swiss camera crew who had been close to the project alleged that the Egyptians had scuppered their efforts to be on the spot to film the spectacular landing.

Reports reaching Cairo claimed that a four-wheeler, manned by a team from one tabloid newspaper, managed to get within ten miles of the landing site, only to run out of fuel and need rescuing themselves.

Eagle has landed, pages 4, 5
Leading article, page 21

Ernie Wise dies aged 73

Ernie Wise, 73, who with Eric Morecambe became one of Britain's most popular comedians, died yesterday in a Berkshire hospital two months after a heart bypass ....Page 3
Obituary, page 23

Millionaire fights euro

Paul Sykes, who formed the Democracy Movement at the end of last year, is selling large chunks of his £325 million business empire to oppose the euro and save sterling ....Page 8

Mussolini plot cover-up

A plot to kill Mussolini masterminded by a London businessman was covered up because of his friendship with Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald ....Page 6

Milosevic gets last chance to halt conflict in Kosovo

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

WITH Serb forces pounding rebel positions in Kosovo and Nato jets on just a few hours' alert, Richard Holbrooke, the American special envoy, will deliver one final warning to President Milosevic to halt his aggression or face a massive bombing onslaught.

Mr Milosevic has agreed to the meeting, due to take place this evening in Belgrade. In announcing the last-ditch effort yesterday, Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, described his mission: "We will make clear that Milosevic faces a stark choice: to halt aggression and accept an interim settlement with a Nato-led force, or bear the full responsibility for the consequences of military action."

President Clinton's National Security Adviser, Sandy Berger, described the renewed fighting as localised but intense. "There are roughly 40,000 Serb military in and around Kosovo poised for an offensive," he said. In Brussels, a Nato official said a situation of "appalling gravity" was taking shape and Nato was determined to prevent "an impending humanitarian disaster".

The level of displaced civilians was approaching the numbers of last October when 250,000 ethnic Albanians were driven from their homes. The official said the alert for allied aircraft to strike after receiving the order to do so had been reduced from 48 hours to "a matter of just a few hours".

He added: "Everything is ready" — but on hold for Mr Holbrooke, whose last meeting with Mr Milosevic a week and a half ago ended without any commitments. He was leaving Washington last night and will stop in Brussels this morning on his way to Belgrade for consultations with British and French officials.

His slender chance for peace requires him to persuade Mr Milosevic to negotiate seriously. The talks broke down last week after the Kosovar Albanians signed a peace-and-autonomy package for the province, to be overseen by Nato peacekeepers. Serbs denounced the deal as an "imposed solution". If the talks were to be reopened, only technical points could be negotiated, not the key provisions of the deal, the Nato official said.

Mr Berger said Mr Holbrooke's task would not delay Nato's preparations, which was to make absolutely clear to Mr Milosevic that he can move to the path of peace or face punishment from Nato.

New terror, page 12

Nine-year-olds to be taught languages

BY JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

MINISTERS are planning a classroom revolution to overcome Britons' notorious reluctance to learn foreign languages. Next month's review of the national curriculum will include a pledge to introduce language teaching from the age of nine.

The last attempt to introduce French in primary schools was abandoned more than 30 years ago amid concern about the cost of training teachers and the unevenness of provision. But a successful experiment in Scotland has encouraged the Government to try again.

An earlier start to foreign languages was one of Tony Blair's first education proposals after becoming party leader. But the subject did not feature in Labour's election manifesto.

However, the revised curriculum to be introduced next year is expected to see a reduction in the detail schools have to cover in the core subjects, leaving room for innovation.

There will be no immediate requirement to teach a foreign language but the programme will be phased in for the final years of primary education when the current literacy and numeracy strategies have taken root.

English pupils begin to learn a foreign language much later than their counterparts elsewhere in Europe. France introduced a compulsory programme in primary schools last year and Austrian primary schoolchildren learn two foreign languages. Several countries begin the process at five.

The national curriculum does not include a foreign language until the age of 11, when most children start secondary education. Only a short course is required beyond 14 and seven out of eight give up languages completely at 16.

Ministers believe that an earlier start would not only be effective but also popular with parents. Up to a third of primary schools offer some language teaching but most takes place in clubs, often at parents' expense.

Timetabled lessons in primary schools are likely to be among the central recommendations of the Nuffield Languages Inquiry, which is to report early next year. Alan Moys, the secretary to the inquiry, said: "There is no conclusive evidence about what is the best age to learn a language but the worst time is in puberty, which is exactly when we do it."

The initiative is being championed by Charles Clarke, the Education Minister, who has met the inquiry team. His civil servants have been asked to devise a programme in time for a second term of Labour government.

Nigel de Gruchy, the general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said last night: "We would worry about the impact on a crowded curriculum but I doubt that the teachers are there to do this anyway."

Law lords set to overturn first Pinochet extradition ruling

Decision will anger Spain and is certain to prompt further legal challenges, reports Roland Watson

JACK STRAW was forced yesterday to deny that his activities as a student disqualified him from deciding on the extradition of General Augusto Pinochet, the former Chilean dictator.

The Home Office rejected allegations that Mr Straw had met and shared afternoon tea with Salvador Allende, the president overthrown by Pinochet, while on a visit to Chile 33 years ago.

A spokesman also denied that Mr Straw had demonstrated against Pinochet's regime after the bloody coup of 1973.

Friends of Mr Straw said both claims, which surfaced in Sunday newspapers along with photographs of Mr Straw during the 1966 visit, were designed to destabilise the Home Secretary just days before this week's House of Lords verdict on Pinochet's extradition to Spain.

One source close to the Home Secretary said: "This is clearly designed to put him in a difficult position."

However Lord Lamont, the former Tory Chancellor who has been campaigning for Pinochet's release, called for Mr Straw to make a statement to the Commons to clear up the matter.

Mr Straw had previously taken legal advice on whether his visit to Chile with a group of students to build a youth hostel barred him from assuming his quasi-judicial role in the Pinochet case. He was advised it did not.

The case will be back in Mr Straw's hands this week after a ruling by the law lords which will give a huge boost to the former dicator's case for freedom.

The seven law lords, the highest court in the land, are expected to rule that the former dictator cannot be extradited for alleged crimes committed before 1988. This was the date when torture became an extra-territorial crime under British law. At the same time, a majority of the law lords, led by Sir Nicholas Browne-Wilkinson, the senior law lord, is expected to uphold the case for denying the General immunity from prosecution for alleged crimes after that date.

As most of the allegations drawn up by the Spanish relate to acts in the first few months after Pinochet first seized power in 1973, the Spanish Government case for extradition could be fatally holed.

The long-awaited ruling — believed to run in total to some 200 pages with each judge giving his own reasons — throws a new perspective on the extradition wrangle.

The law lords originally ruled before Christmas that the former dictator had no immunity from prosecution by a three-to-two majority. But that ruling had to be set aside after it emerged that one of the majority, Lord Hoffmann, had failed to disclose links with Amnesty International.

The second sitting over 12 days by a rare panel of seven law lords heard new evidence not aired before the previous panel of five which has been critical to their decision. The new arguments focused on the definition of an extradition crime: whether the crimes alleged were extraditable in law. The nub of the issue is whether the crime had to be one that was extraditable at the time it was committed both in the foreign country and in the requesting state; or whether it is enough that the crime is now extraditable in the requesting state.

The law lords have decided to follow the reasoning of the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, who looked at the issue when it first came before the High Court. They have been persuaded of the argument that before 1988, no one could be tried in a British court for torture unless the alleged offence took place on British territory and no one could be extradited for a torture charge except to the country where the alleged offence took place.

The second key point in their ruling will be whether the General has immunity as a former head of state from extradition in respect of those crimes which the law lords decide are extraditable. On this they are believed to have decided that he does not, although this then leaves a much smaller corpus of crimes to form the case for extradition.

The ruling on Wednesday will be a body blow to the case for extraditing the former dictator put forward by the Spanish government. It means that the go-ahead to extradite originally given by Jack Straw will have to be revisited. It is also certain to prompt a succession of legal challenges. If the Home Secretary gives the go-ahead to extradition, Pinochet's legal team will mount a fresh challenge.

Benefit offices given access to tax records

By Roland Watson, political correspondent

BENEFIT offices are to be given unprecedented access to people's confidential tax records as the Government's drive against social security fraud moves up a gear.

For the first time, officers targeting suspected fraudsters will be able to carry out on-screen computer checks of the individual's tax, National Insurance and social security files. It will allow them to identify immediately people making multiple claims, or those lying about their circumstances.

Ministers hope the development will prevent fraud taking root in the first place, leading to a dramatic fall in the level of illegal social security claims, conservatively estimated at up to £4 billion a year.

One effect of the change is that the Child Support Agency will be able to deduct unpaid maintenance from absent fathers directly from their pay packets.

Alistair Darling, the social security secretary, is to launch a strategy document titled Safeguarding Social Security in the coming weeks giving details of the new initiative.

He will say the move will help build prevention into the system rather than relying on officers detecting fraud once it has already taken place.

The Tories warned last night questioned the move, saying it amounted to a breach of privacy. Iain Duncan Smith, the social security spokesman, said: "People's rights over their own personal records are being eroded by this Government." And ministers are braced for a backlash from the civil liberties lobby as well as Labour backbenchers.

However, the Department of Social Security insisted that all the changes were being carried out within the terms of the Data Protection Act. A spokesman said: "We are not giving the information to anyone else and we are only using it to protect the system from fraud."

The breakthough comes with the merger of the Contributions Agency and the Inland Revenue, which takes effect from April 1.

A new generation of computer equipment is about to go on stream at the Department of Social Security, which will allow the on-screen data-matching to take place.

Although officers looking for fraud could cross-check previously, it involved a cumbersome paper-chase and was blamed for much fraud because it was immensely time consuming.

Mr Darling made clear yesterday that he will use powers in the Welfare Reform Bill currently going through Parliament to allow the Inland Revenue to supply information on absent fathers. It will allow the CSA to calculate what their payments should be and deduct it at source if they continue to contribute to their children's upbringing.

The change coincides with a simplifying of the formula for calculating liability. Mr Darling will confirm in the coming weeks that absent parents will pay 15 per cent of their net income for one child, 20 per cent for two and 25 per cent for three or more.

The banding system replaces the current rules which requires 104 different pieces of information for the dues to be worked out.



French lessons for children at Trafalgar Junior School, Twickenham, show the way forward for the national curriculum

French with fun and no tears

By Hannah Betts

TRAFALGAR Junior School in Twickenham, southwest London, offers a shining example of the way language lessons can be integrated into the fabric of primary school life.

Despite its lack of inclusion in the national curriculum, French is taught at Trafalgar for 40 minutes a day from the age of eight. But the school takes a lateral approach to maximising its language opportunities; morning registers, calendar work and weather charts are all used as opportunities to encourage children to use their skills.

French is made enjoyable with singing, videos, board games and picture exercises, and children welcome the subject as a break from more traditional lessons. Ten days ago, the school was visited by the French illustrator Alexis Ferrier — a roving man of many talents with little English — who made them flex their linguistic muscles while writing a story for him to draw. For nine weeks every year the school welcomes a native French assistant.

The school started teaching French in 1994, inspired by Richmond LEA's positive attitude towards languages at primary level. Richard Smith, Trafalgar's francophile deputy head, was the scheme's prime mover.

"We would welcome the inclusion of a language hour to the national curriculum," Mr Smith said. "Children of all abilities relish the opportunity to learn a language. Those with special needs gain a particular lot from it because of the emphasis on verbal skills — it can do incredible things for a child's self-esteem."

By the time children move onto secondary school they can discuss family life, moving about a town, parts of the body, the weather and time.

Initially, the school faced a degree of hostility from secondary schools in the area, jealously preserving their right to initiate children into language learning. However, these misunderstandings have largely been ironed out and Richmond secondaries are realising they can only benefit from an appetite for languages picked up at an early age.

'Master classes' for best comprehensive pupils

By John O'Leary, education editor

MORE than 100,000 of the brightest pupils in inner-city comprehensives are to be offered "master classes" in neighbouring schools under plans to be announced today. Extra support will also be provided for those who are falling behind.

The initiatives will form part of a wider package designed to rebuild confidence in state education in urban areas. But teachers' leaders said last night that ministers were undermining comprehensive schools by creaming off the most able children.

About 450 schools in London and six other big cities will have access to the scheme. They will receive extra funding to run after-hours extension classes and will link with the growing network of specialist schools and beacon schools being developed as all-round centres of excellence.

Between 5 and 10 per cent of children will be selected for extra classes in each subject, including sport and music. In an extension of the "setting" principle which the Government encourages in comprehensive schools, the high flyers will be chosen subject by subject to reach those who are talented only in limited areas.

The 300 existing specialist schools are already required to make their facilities available to neighbouring schools. Some offer master classes to primary school pupils, and collaboration with other secondary schools is growing.

The three-year programme, which will cost hundreds of millions of pounds, will be unveiled by Tony Blair, who is anxious to stem the flight of middle-class families from inner-city comprehensives. Mr Blair rejected his local comprehensive schools in Islington, North London, for his own children and has said he does not blame parents in other areas for doing the same.

Estelle Morris, the School Standards Minister, who taught in a large comprehensive in Coventry, is to be given special responsibility for the programme. Professor Tim Brighouse, who has announced his intention of resigning from the government's standard taskforce, is also expected to play a leading role.

However, news of the scheme drew an angry response from most teachers' leaders. Nigel de Gruchy, of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said: "Modernisation is a euphemism for the backdoor reintroduction of grammar school selection."

David Hart, of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "The suggestion that they [the brightest children] can only get the education they need by using specialist schools is a totally unjustified slur on mainstream comprehensive schools."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Boy, 13, is beaten by loyalists

A 13-year-old Protestant boy was savagely beaten by a masked loyalist gang wielding baseball bats, making him one of Ulster's youngest victims of a punishment beating. The boy, who recently celebrated his birthday, was wandering with friends through his home town of Newtownards, Co Down, when he was singled out by a gang of men wearing balaclavas. He suffered a broken arm, several broken fingers, cuts and multiple bruising. A police spokeswoman described the assault, one of 50 punishment attacks this year, as "absolutely horrific".

Lorry drivers in tax rise protest

Around 700 protesting lorry drivers from all over the country are set to block London roads today despite a late offer by ministers to discuss vehicle tax rises. The protesters, from hauliers' splinter group Trans-Action, claim that overseas firms can operate lorries for one-third the cost.

Tebbit call over Al Fayed ruling

Lord Tebbit appealed to Jack Straw yesterday to deny Mohamed Al Fayed British citizenship as he disclosed details of a £30,000 gift to his wife — crippled in the Brighton bombing — by the Harrods tycoon. The modified car had been passed through a blind trust Lord Tebbit had set up to help her.

Fight action for Lennox fans

A London law firm is planning to bring legal action on behalf of British fight fans who believe they were cheated because of the decision which denied Lennox Lewis from becoming the undisputed world heavyweight champion. Almost 8,000 fans flew from Britain to New York.

Kennedy calls for library cash

Helena Kennedy, the barrister and campaigner for social justice, called on the Government to invest in libraries. Speaking on the eve of her lecture to launch the Orange Prize for Fiction for women's writing, she expressed despair that people were being deprived of part of community life.

Three killed as rare car crashes

Three people were killed yesterday when a rare £640,000 McLaren F1 sports car crashed into a building on the A120 at Great Dunmow, Essex. The car, which can reach 212 mph, exploded, killing the driver, Christoper Dawes, a businessman; Fiona Newman, 35; and Michael Lamb.

Tory plan to curb ministers' power

By Roland Watson, political correspondent

RADICAL plans to strengthen the ability of MPs to hold ministers to account are being drawn up by the Tories to make Labour's "abuse" of Parliamentary procedure a central feature of the next general election campaign.

The proposals include a major upgrade of the role of select committees. The 30 or so committee chairmen would automatically become Privy Councillors and could receive a salary and possibly even a car from the public purse.

Committees would also be able to subpoena witnesses and hold ministers in contempt of Parliament if their answers fail to satisfy MPs. Both would be considerable extensions of their current power.

Other ideas floated include stripping the whips of much of the power that currently allows them to minimise trouble for the Government. One proposal would see the Speaker given powers over the make-up of Parliamentary committees to prevent the whips packing them with party loyalists.

The plans for the Commons are part of a wider blueprint for constitutional reform, including changes to the House of Lords, which the Tories will pledge to implement should they return to power.

Council tax rise to average 6.8%

By Roland Watson, political correspondent

COUNCIL taxes in England will rise by an average 6.8 per cent from next month, with residents of shire counties bearing the brunt of the increase, it will be confirmed today.

The cost to the average household will be an extra £51, although ministers will present it as an increase of "less than £1 a week".

Labour will point out that its councils have a lower average rise at 6.1 per cent than Tory-controlled authorities at 7.6 per cent, although a direct comparison is difficult because of the small number of councils run by the Conservatives.

The news comes just days before the Government unveils its proposals for a new streamlined executive system of local government. The draft Bill will include measures to clamp down on the type of town hall corruption that has damaged Labour's image in a number of councils.

Labour chiefs will move this week to suspend the local party in Newark, where Fiona Jones quit as MP last week after being convicted of election fraud. Labour's national executive is expected to rule that regional officials take over the running of the constituency.

Leading article, page 21

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'Ernie was the strength'

Stars say the brilliant comic was the anchor who sought perfection for duo, writes Alex O'Connell

THE stars of stage and screen paid tribute to the exquisite skills and brilliant timing of Ernie Wise, who died in hospital yesterday.

Among them were those who had appeared on the *Morecambe and Wise* show down the years and been the butt of jokes by the two comedians.

Des O'Connor, who was a friend of both in spite of suffering years of good natured ridicule, said: "At least now they are reunited. And knowing Eric, he will say, 'You're late again'."

He did not think Wise had received as much acclaim as he deserved. "Eric was the wit, he was capable of firing off a one-liner at you, but Ernie was the strength, he was the anchor. If Eric got lost, it was Ernie pulling him back, and righting the boat.

"This was their secret, that they were a great team.

"The pair of them together provided the impact. They were average apart, together superb. Where are we going to find another Morecambe and Wise? To this day, when I get in a taxi, it's "You're not going to sing, Des, are you?"

"And I never saw them have a cross word, considering they were in each other's pockets, morning noon and night for tens of years."



Those famous short, fat, hairy legs

Wise's long partnership with Eric Morecambe ended with his television partner's death from heart failure in 1984. Wise decided to launch a solo career rather than choose another partner as he could easily have done. In the early days of the act it had been Wise who dished out the insults and Morecambe who took them.

Bill Cotton, former BBC managing director of television, said: "When Morecambe and Wise were at the height of their fame and success there was no doubt in my mind that this was a 50/50 partnership.

"They were both as good as each other and had an equal part to play in one of the best and funniest double acts that has ever graced the entertainment business in this country.

"Ernie's search for perfection was a main pillar of their success. The death of Eric Morecambe was a huge blow to Ernie and his wish to continue performing was often misconstrued as ambition for even greater fame.

"In fact, it was down to dedication and love of his work."

Norman Wisdom, who had known Wise for many years, said he had been sure his friend would pull through. "I thought he'd make it. He was a brilliant comedian and most importantly he was such a nice fellow."

Glenda Jackson, the Transport Minister and former actress, who appeared on the *Morecambe and Wise* TV show as Cleopatra, said: "I am very sorry that he has gone, he was a lovely man and a great performer."

The duo, whose Christmas specials became television classics, won their audience's heart by making the most glamorous celebrities look utterly stupid. In the last decade a new generation of comedians fronted by Vic Reeves, who is seen to be Morecambe's post-modern successor, has been influenced by their childish anarchy.

JOAN WILLIAMS/REX FEATURES



The fleet's in trouble: Eric and Ernie have a brush with Cliff Richard in a 1972 musical number on the Morecambe and Wise Show

So what do you think of it so far?

Morecambe and Wise's first television performance was in 1953 as an act on BBC's *Variety Parade*. Their first show, *Running Wild*, was panned by critics.

The Morecambe and Wise Show began on ITV in 1961. There were 30 series on BBC and ITV and four Christmas specials.

Eric and Ernie would leave the stage dancing to their signature tune *Bring Me Sunshine* after a large woman had thanked the audience for watching "her little show" or a man had played a mouth organ.

They were appointed OBE in 1976.

The Queen Mother once asked Eric to teach her "the bag trick" where he caught an imaginary pebble in a paper bag.

The 1977 Christmas show on BBC attracted 27.5 million viewers, the all-time record audience for a programme shown on a single channel. It featured Elton John playing a song to the BBC cleaners.

The conductor Andre Previn became known to a new audience of non-classical music fans when he had an argument with the comedians over a Grieg concerto. Glenda Jackson, after playing Cleopatra in a 1979 spoof, won a part in the comedy film *A Touch of Class* with George Segal.

Michael Caine and Roger Moore refused to appear because they were scared they would get a ribbing.

Morecambe and Wise's catchphrases were: "What do you think of it so far?", "You can't see the join" [in reference to ill-fitting toupées], "He's the one with short, fat, hairy legs" [Eric on Ernie], "Get out of that" [originally coined during a judo contest between the two].

Ernie's favourite sketch was to *Singin' in the Rain*, because he got to be a little glamorous and remained dry while Morecambe was drenched through.

Peter Cushing still hasn't been paid for his performance.

Sooty censured over medicine risk to children

CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

AFTER a 47-year career free from controversy, Sooty the glove puppet has fallen foul of the television regulators.

He and his co-stars, Sweep and Miss Soo, long regarded as three of the most inoffensive characters in children's entertainment, have been censured for portraying dangerous behaviour which might encourage youngsters to dabble with drugs.

Viewers complained that in an episode of ITV's *Sooty and Co* the puppets were seen sniffing and playing with essential oil bottles that closely resembled medicine bottles. The show's presenters Richard Cadell and Liana Bridges were also seen swallowing homoeopathic pills.

Eleven complainants, two of whom were professional aromatherapists, claimed it was irresponsible to show the puppets opening what could have been interpreted as medicine bottles. They also protested that essential oils could be dangerous if misused — in undiluted form the strongest oils could burn the skin.

Granada, which makes the programme for ITV, argued that the intention had been to introduce children to the fragrances, not to encourage them to play with bottles. All the oils, the spokesman said, were clearly labelled in bottles that were similar to but not the same as medicine bottles.

However, it admitted that research had shown that some oil could burn the skin.

The Independent Television Commission upheld the complaints saying that the programme, in November last year, breached the section of the programme code which prohibits the portrayal of any dangerous behaviour easily imitated by children at times when large numbers of them may be watching.

The ITC, in its ruling, said: "However well-intentioned the episode, the ITC considered it unwise to have shown characters playing with bottles that could easily have been confused with the type of medicine bottles found at home. Older children might have some grasp of the distinction between conventional and homeopathic medicine and possibly some understanding of essential oils. But the same could not be said of younger children."

It is the first time that Sooty, made famous by his creator the late Harry Corbett, has been accused of promoting reckless behaviour.

However in 1994 *The Sooty Show* was warned by regulators about product placement after Sooty videos were seen prominently displayed in a shop scene in one of the episodes.

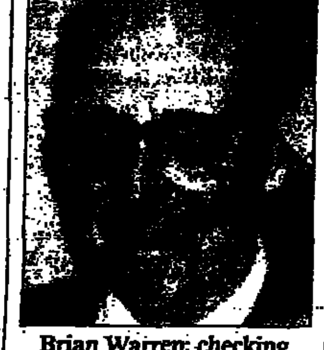
A Granada spokeswoman said that Sooty had moved with the times and was now tackling more contemporary issues such as homoeopathy.

Other television programmes came under fire in the report for showing explicit sex scenes. Channel 5's documentary series *Sex And Shopping* and ITV's *Vice: The Sex Trade* were both condemned for their explicit sexual content, and *Sex And Shopping*, which was aired beyond the 9pm watershed at 10.50pm on Channel 5, was condemned as "unacceptably explicit for transmission at any time".

The 13-part series, which began in October, was preceded by a warning that it was "a frank look at the global pornography business". It drew complaints from 11 viewers.



Sooty: in hot water over aromatherapy



Brian Warren: checking for newborn lambs

Farmer is gored to death by angry bull

BY TIM JONES

RESCUERS had to stand by helplessly for half an hour before they could recover the body of an elderly farmer who had been gored to death by an enraged bull.

As Brian Warren, 86, lay dead in a field at his farm, the 2,000lb beast stood over him preventing paramedics and ambulancemen from going to his aid. They were able to drag his body out of the field only after the bull had been shot by a gamekeeper.

Mr Warren, of Hall Farm, Fornham All Saints, Suffolk, is believed to have been in the field checking for newborn lambs when he was attacked by the five-year-old animal.

His body was discovered on Saturday evening by his son Martin, 37, who was too distressed to talk about the incident.

The pair, who ran the 100 acre farm together, kept the bull in the field along with their suckler herd of ten cows with calves and 75 sheep.

Sebastian White, 34, a family friend, said: "No bull is to be fully trusted and this one had a reputation for being cantankerous. Brian used to warn visitors to the farm to be careful of it but he thought he could handle it."

He added: "Although he was extremely fit for his age, his eyesight was not what it was. Brian had been in the village for a long time and had farmed all his life. What he didn't know about sheep and cattle wasn't worth knowing."

Julius quits Diana fund

LAWYER Anthony Julius has stepped down as chair of the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, it was announced yesterday.

He and his firm Mishcon de Reya were criticised last year when the fund was charged £500,000 in legal fees. Christopher Spence, trustee and chair of the fund's grants committee is to take over as chairman.

Mr Julius, who negotiated Diana's divorce settlement, will remain a trustee of the fund, which he co-founded in September 1997, soon after the death of the Princess.

"I am proud to have been a founding trustee and chair of this fund, which has already committed over 15 million in grants and is now set to be a highly effective champion of charitable causes for many years to come, in the name of Diana, Princess of Wales," he said.

"This is a good and fitting way to carry forward the values of her work. I am now pleased to hand over the chair of the fund to Christopher Spence, who has already been so deeply involved in developing the fund's policies for supporting charities and who has himself such a wide and deep experience of the voluntary sector and its requirements."

His law firm, Mishcon de Reya, caused controversy last year when the fund was charged 500,000 in legal fees.

BREITLING ORBITER: "THE EAGLE HAS LANDED"

Euphoria greets end of an epic journey

Pilots had to toast their success with a glass water, reports **Helen Rumbelow** from Geneva



Joanna Jones, left, and Michelle Picard, whose husbands were the pilots, hear the news; and below, a drawing by Mr Jones's granddaughter Sophia

"THE eagle has landed," was the long-awaited message that triggered whoops of relief, hugs and celebratory champagne in the *Breitling Orbiter 3*'s control centre in Geneva at 6am yesterday.

"We're OK, bloody good," said Brian Jones. His team responded with "Well done, chaps," before the phone line died. The pilots were left to "shriek with joy" and toast their success with cups of water as they took their first steps on land for nearly 20 days.

They had landed in the nick of time, having just a few drops of propane left after passing over the "treacherous sandy sea" of the Western Desert to firmer ground, 50 miles north of Mut.

Bertrand Piccard announced that "this is the beginning of a new kind of life," for the pair, who had already been awarded the Olympic Order by the International Olympic Committee and been saluted by Tony Blair and the Queen before they were rescued by the Egyptian helicopter.

It was the achievement of an "everyman" and gave everyone hope to pursue their dreams, said Joanna Jones as she waited for her husband to return to Geneva.

"He's my hero, but he is also a normal man who has proved that nothing is impossible," she said. "Neither of us have realised how big this is, the extraordinary feat hasn't sunk in yet, but Brian is the ideal hero as he will share it with everybody."

When Mr Jones crossed the finishing line in Mauritania on Saturday morning, he told his wife, "I love you, I'm going to have a cup of tea." The water took 25 minutes to boil at his altitude of 30,000 feet.

In return, his wife said that she would rush up to hug him when they are reunited. She then asked him to shave off his beard, which she said made him look like a "Mexican bandit".

"He'll be like a boy with a new toy, unbearably excited and beaming all over his little face," she said.

Mr Piccard on Saturday thanked the "invisible hand" that guided them in their 46,759km tour of the globe. Mrs Jones said that the weather was so favourable that: "You have to believe it was their destiny."

Mr Jones, she said, had earned a hero's welcome on his return after the mental ordeal of the cramped flight, which her husband had compared to three weeks spent locked in the back of an estate car.

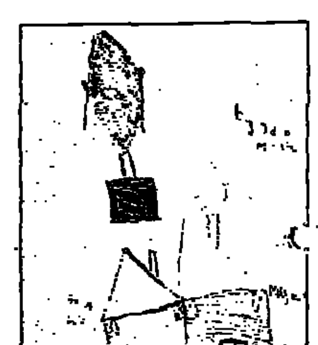
"His time in the RAF gave him a professional approach, but this strength and resolve has come from deep within him," she said.

The worst of times were over the Pacific, when the men lost voice contact with the base for three long "dog days". The control team was so anxious the pilots would be defeated that they sent them cheeful limericks as they passed key points of the journey. One of them read:

There were two balloon pilots over the Pacific
Who said 'We really must be specific'
With a record to break
We could do with a cake
And a glass of champagne would be t'riffic.

"We had trouble trying to find a rhyme with Hawaii," said Mrs Jones.

Don Cameron, the balloon's designer, said that the landing was so gentle that the capsule would be in an almost pristine condition for its appearance in an aviation museum. The final resting place for the craft will be decided once it had been salvaged from the desert. "That small balloon is a piece of history now," Mr Cameron said.



Makers toast their team

CHAMPAGNE was flowing at the Cameron Balloon Team's HQ in Bristol yesterday after the history-making Breitling Orbiter 3 crew finally returned safely to terra firma.

An excited Nick Purvis, sales director for Cameron, who designed and built the balloon, said: "We are absolutely over the moon, totally elated. You just have to come down here to Bristol to feel the atmosphere.

"All the people who worked on the project are here celebrating, there's been lots of champagne flowing. "We have sent the guys our congratulations."

He added: "The balloon landed first thing in the morning when the winds in Egypt are at their calmest. Landing such a balloon is not plain sailing, the risk is part of the journey. It's a big beast to bring down."

This was the third attempt by Breitling to circumnavigate the world in a balloon, the first try was around 20 years ago. It has taken five years for the current team to beat the record.

Mr Purvis said: "It's been a long time to get to this end goal.

"This is the final great achievement, this is the last great achievement to be done.

"It was so much down to luck. I'd say 60 per cent of these projects rely on luck and our guys have had a lot of luck on their side, but you need to have the right team."

Branson's olympic ideal

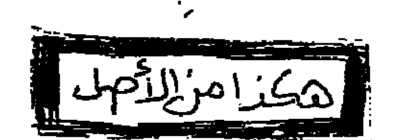
FROM HELEN RUMBELOW IN GENEVA

TO SHOW he is a good loser, Richard Branson will be in Geneva today to greet Brian Jones and Bertrand Piccard. The vanquished Virgin chairman will offer them champagne, congratulations and a challenge to take him on in a round-the-world balloon race.

Mr Branson may not get the warm welcome he expects. There were rumbles of discontent at the Geneva control centre last night that his high-profile appearance may upstage the triumphant duo.

The team fears that Mr Branson's public challenge to a race may undermine the Jones and Piccard celebrations. Mr Branson insists that he had the idea of a race before the others beat him to the coveted prize. Virgin is willing to sponsor the global race but Mr Branson would like to see ballooning become an Olympic sport. His argument is that it is "a lot more physical than chess and is growing in popularity all the time".

Whether the Anglo-Swiss team is in the mood to answer its rival's challenge is in some doubt. One team member said: "The visit is unconfirmed this end. It's Brian and Bertrand's day. They are the ones that did it."



BREITLING ORBITER: "THE EAGLE HAS LANDED"

'Now we are one with the angels'

High morale was shown by flying past the finishing line, reports Christopher Walker from Cairo

EVEN without any audience on the ground to greet them, the two balloonists were reportedly in high spirits from the moment they touched ground.

Bertrand Piccard jumped off the gondola and waved to the circling Breitling plane, while Mr Jones, 51, was more subdued in his initial expression of relief that the journey was over.

The pair's flight controller, Alan Noble explained that Mr Jones told him: "I am now going to get outside the balloon and I am going to have my first pee that is not in a bottle for three weeks."

The strength and morale of the circumnavigators during the closing stages of their 478-hour voyage was highlighted by their decision to continue their flight beyond the finishing line for the round-the-world record that had eluded dozens of balloonists before them.

After 19 days aloft, the huge silver balloon floated over Mauritania past longitude 9 degrees west on Saturday to complete the 26,000-mile-plus non-stop navigation in some 40 days less than the fictional challenge originally envisioned by Jules Verne. There is already speculation that Hollywood is planning to dramatise the real-life journey.

Before landing, M Piccard, a 41-year-old psychiatrist from a family famed for its adventuring, thanked the "invisible hand," that guided the pair past storms and other setbacks in his third quest to circumnavigate the globe.

"We are very lucky and privileged to have succeeded in the first round-the-world trip," he said. "We are having great difficulty realising our dreams have come true . . . we are with the angels."

Mr Noble said: "We have had a lot of luck with our project. Everything has gone our way."

Yesterday's successful dawn landing was counted as another triumph for the unsung heroes of the world record bid, the team's meteorologists, Luc Trullemans and Pierre Eckert, wo were described by Monsier Piccard as "the link between nature and us".

While Mr Jones's wife, Joanna, was with mission control in Geneva, Mr Piccard's wife, Michelle was in Egypt for the desert touchdown. Beforehand, she said: "I am very happy, but I will be completely fulfilled when I am reunited with my husband."

The two balloonists raised their hands in triumph when they first met the press on arriving in Mut in an Egyptian military helicopter yesterday afternoon. But they said they had been briefly concerned they would have to spend the night in the desert after a delay of eight hours on the ground before they were picked up.

M Piccard said: "We spent a few hours looking at the sand, sun, the sky. Very calm. Then we had to deflate the balloon and when everything was ok, we went to sleep in the gondola for two hours."

Mr Jones said that the first thing he wanted was orange juice, but he was served Coca-Cola in the VIP rest area at the airstrip before the men were flown to Cairo. Strong winds had made for a perfect landing, he added, but the balloon was "a bit of a mess."

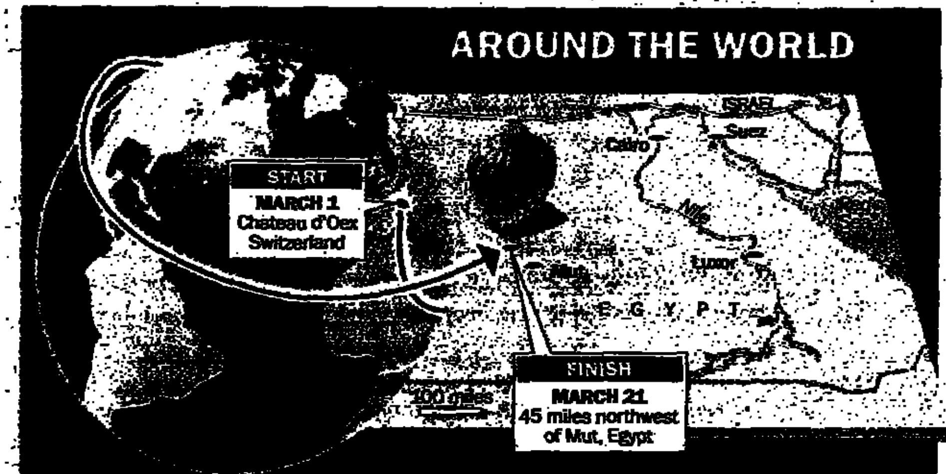
"The winds tipped it over, and we had to run around the balloon with our knives to make holes to keep it from being dragged across the desert," he said. He had sprained his wrist punching holes in the balloon.

Mr Jones and his fellow pilot, sporting three week old beards and blue flight suits, said that what they most wanted was a shower. When the balloon first landed they had celebrated by washing their hair with water that had been frozen during the high-altitude voyage.

The pair had been dozing when an Egyptian army airplace spotted them and despatched the helicopter to pick them up. On arriving in Cairo last night, Ms Piccard was reunited with his wife and three daughters.

Peter Jones said that he felt "deflated" after finishing the voyage, during which he and his Swiss co-pilot endured cold weather, altitude sickness and lived on rehydrated food during.

YOUR LUGGAGE LANDED IN SIBERIA





Dawn landing of the *Breitling Orbiter 3*, a triumph for the team's unsung meteorologists

Space suits and races on the next frontier

NO SOONER had the pilots touched earth than their rival adventurers were trying to find ways to push balloons to higher limits.

The future of this "sailing of the skies" lies in going up to the edge of space, going it alone, or racing against a field that sets off from the same place under the starter's gun.

A air race similar to the Whitbread round-the-world yacht race looked imminent, said Don Cameron, maker of the *Breitling Orbiter 3*, and the British delegate to the ballooning regulators, the Fédération Aeronautique Internationale.

He now believes in an almost boundless potential after seeing the sport revolutionised in the past 30 years. "In the 1960s, I predicted that maybe you could get a balloon to fly for as long as nine hours, but no more."

Five years ago, the FAI realised that the round-the-world challenge was within balloonists' grasp and drew up the rules. "The Great Race" was expected to begin next year, he said.

Andy Elson, whose *Cable and Wireless* balloon attempt failed two weeks ago, wants to take a traditional basket balloon higher than 46,000 metres, while wearing a space suit at an altitude at which any leak would burst a head open. No human has been above 34,688 metres in a balloon, a record set in the 1960s.

The final challenge is the solo flight around the world. This had been the aim of Steve Fossett, the American millionaire. He set two distance records by flying alone in an unpressurised balloon.

He abandoned this last summer, admitting that the projects foundered partly because of the stress caused by being deprived of sleep for more than a week.

Anti-Mussolini plotter was protected


Mussolini: 1931 plot to kill him failed

Mark Henderson on a Prime Minister's links to a man who tried to kill Italian leader

A LONDON businessman's plot to kill Mussolini was covered up by the Home Secretary and the Metropolitan Police because of his friendship with the first Labour Prime Minister, Ramsay MacDonald, documents released by the Home Office have shown.

The 1931 assassination attempt masterminded by Emidio Recchioni, an Italian-born Briton who ran a delicatessen in Soho, was closely monitored by Special Branch and MI5 but their knowledge of his plans were deliberately kept under wraps. The authorities kept quiet even when Recchioni sued successfully for libel against a national newspaper that named him as a plotter, for fear that a trial would prove embarrassing to MacDonald and his Government. He was never arrested either, for the same reason.

The Home Office file, which was originally marked to be closed until 2035, was uncovered by Alfio Bernabei of *History Today* magazine, which reports it in full this month.

Recchioni, who was born near Ravenna in 1864 and arrived in England in 1899 after a failed attempt to kill the Prime Minister, Francesco Crispi, was friendly with an array of prominent left-wing and intellectual figures of the 1920s and 1930s, including George Orwell and Sylvia Pankhurst as well as MacDonald. His shop, King Bomba at 37 Old Compton Street, became known as a centre of anti-fascist agitation after Mussolini's rise to power.

Rumours that Recchioni was plotting to assassinate Mussolini began to circulate in 1929 and in 1931 he travelled to Brussels to meet Angelo Spardellotto, an Italian anarchist who volunteered to kill Mussolini if provided with weapons and enough cash. Recchioni, who was being shadowed by Special Branch agent J O'Reilly, appears to have done both.

Spardellotto was later arrested in Rome in possession of two bombs and a loaded revolver, and confessed to meeting Recchioni on several occasions in Brussels and Paris to plan the killing. A Home Office investigation concluded: "It seems likely that he (Recchioni) is in fact the person who supplied the bombs."

Despite this, Recchioni was not arrested, and when *The Daily Telegraph* quoted Italian sources naming him as an assassination plotter, he sued for damages to his reputation as a "virtuous man". Though testimony from Colonel Carter, the Special Branch agent who monitored Recchioni, could have turned the case in the newspaper's favour, he was prevented from doing so by Lord Trenchard, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, and Herbert Samuel, the Home Secretary.

Trenchard wrote to Samuel: "The *DT* have applied to Colonel Carter to know if he can help them, but we told him the only possible reply is that he has no evidence he can give." Later, he wrote again. "It is unfortunate that Recchioni may get damages out of the *DT*, but I do not see how it can be helped." Recchioni did get damages, of £1,177, after reportedly spending just £35 on Spardellotto's bombs. He died two years later, while in Paris for medical treatment.

Trenchard and Samuel almost certainly covered up Recchioni's involvement because of his sensitive links to MacDonald, the papers suggest. Reports from the Italian Secret Police describe his "personal friendship" with the Prime Minister, and Labour's rise to power was without doubt of benefit to him. Until 1929, the Home Office, advised by Colonel Carter, had blocked his attempts to become a naturalised Briton; the Special Branch agent described him as "an intriguer of the first order".

That all changed when MacDonald reached Downing Street. Recchioni was naturalised "in spite of a bad report", under pressure from the Home Office. Carter would have had to reveal this under oath had he testified in the libel action.

Sex-book rabbi lists God's top ten tips for dating game

Ruth Gledhill on why the Bible is being quoted as the best manual for lovers

THE rabbi who aroused controversy with his book *Kosher Sex* is promoting a new guide to dating: the Ten Commandments.

Rabbi Shmuley Boteach says that the biblical code contains as much practical guidance for lovers as any number of self-help books proliferating on bookshop shelves.

He resigned from his North London synagogue after his book caused a storm in the Orthodox community. He asserted that sexual attraction and gratification were essential for a successful relationship. No one expected to marry a virgin these days but sex should come later rather than sooner in a relationship, he added.

In his next book, *Dating Secrets of the Ten Commandments*, he says that many men are highly sexed and want to have intercourse as often as possible, which is why American rap music referred to them as "dogs" that like "dogging" all day long. But he goes on to argue that such behaviour is not the answer to lasting relationships.

In the new book, subtitled *Keep Taking the Tablets and Find Your Perfect Soulmate*, he says the Ten Commandments contain the answers to self-control and lifelong love within a relationship. Rabbi Boteach, 32, who is married with six children, says: "We should all be looking for soulmates, for someone who fills out existential vacuum.

"There is a profound misconception about religion today. The Ten Commandments are seen as a moral code given by a law-defined God to a lawless people in the wilderness," he writes. They should be seen instead as the rules of a relationship between God and his people.

Rabbi Boteach, whose parents divorced when he was eight years old, said: "The Ten Commandments are the most famous guide to living ever devised. They lend themselves to the rules of relationships."

For example, the second commandment, forbidding people to worship any other God, is about the importance of putting a wife or husband first. "To be the one and only is essential in any relationship," he says in the book, to be published in May.

Rabbi Boteach, who was the runner-up in the 1998 *Times* Preacher of the Year Award, works for Oxford's *L'Chaim* society, a Jewish student organisation.

He points out that according to Jewish tradition, everyone has a predestined soulmate. Some rabbis believe that an angel, Achzariel, decides who will marry whom even before they are born, while others believe that souls are divided into two in Heaven before birth and that the two halves are placed in a man and a woman.

The Jewish wedding ritual, he says, is based partly on the revelation of the Ten Commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai, which are found in the Old Testament books of Exodus and Deuteronomy.

"The groom waits under a wedding canopy, reflecting how God was up the mountain before the Jewish people, waiting there for them, and using the mountain to protect them, according to Jewish tradition."

☐ *Dating Secrets of the Ten Commandments*, Hodder & Stoughton (to be published on May 6 at £6.99)

CHRIS HARRIS


Rabbi Boteach says happiness in the bedroom must be based on "the most famous guide to living ever devised"

A NEW READING OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Rabbi Boteach's interpretations:

1. *I am the Lord thy God:* "If a man says to a woman 'I love you but my job comes first', she will not be interested."
2. *Thou shalt have no other God but me:* "To be the one and only is essential in any relationship."
3. *Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain:* "Having enough confidence not to swear or tell lies about yourself."
4. *Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy:* "A relationship needs sacred moments cordoned off from the rest of life."
5. *Honour thy father and mother:* "Ceasing to show gratitude is death to a relationship."
6. *Thou shalt not kill:* "You can destroy a life but you can also destroy someone's self-confidence by being critical."
7. *Thou shalt not commit adultery:* "This is about abuse and misuse of sexuality."
8. *Thou shalt not steal:* "A person's most important possession is their heart."
9. *Thou shalt not bear false witness:* "Keep your promises and never say something in a relationship that you cannot deliver."
10. *Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's goods:* "So many people feel there is something better out there. This is about contentment."

Irvine bias claim goes to tribunal

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, will be accused of race and sex discrimination today in an unprecedented tribunal claim.

The action against him has been brought by two women solicitors over the appointment in 1997 of Garry Hart as his special adviser. Mr Hart, who was a partner with the City law firm Herbert Smith, is a friend of Lord Irvine and godfather to one of Tony Blair's children.

Jane Coker and Martha Osamor, claim that the Lord Chancellor discriminated against them in that he did not advertise the post and that they were therefore unlawfully deprived of the chance of applying for it.

Lord Irvine is not expected to attend the hearing — a matter which lawyers for the two women may argue shows contempt for the tribunal. They will argue that the appointment is in breach of the EU equal treatment directive as well as the Sex Discrimination and Race Relations Acts.

Lord Irvine's case is that there is no discrimination: that the appointment was made because the Lord Chancellor had confidence in Mr Hart based on his knowledge of his qualities and experience.



هكذا من الأصل

ICI heads list of worst polluters

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

THE chemicals giant ICI heads a "Hall of Shame" of 20 companies that are the most flagrant polluters in England and Wales, the Environment Agency will announce today.

Five water companies, led by Wessex, also feature in the list, along with the oil company Shell UK, several construction and waste management companies and the nuclear fuels firm BNFL.

The list is aimed at shaming industry into doing more to prevent toxic and hazardous chemicals seeping into rivers, underground aquifers and lakes, and is being used by the agency to demand tougher fines for polluters.

Ed Gallagher, the agency's chief executive, said yesterday: "Tough action in the field needs to be matched by tougher penalties being imposed by the courts. The average fine for a prosecution last year was £2,786. Clearly this is not sending out a strong enough message to deter large businesses that have the potential to seriously damage the environment."

The case of EOM Construction, which is seventh on the agency's list, underscores the agency's concern. The company was successfully prosecuted for illegally keeping and disposing of thousands of tonnes of controlled wastes on sites in Burnley and Colne. The tipping saved the company an estimated £180,000 but it was fined only £21,000 with £1,600 costs in court in November last year.

ICI's position as the most shameful company on the agency's list is based on three incidents. In March last year the company was fined £300,000 for polluting groundwater at its site in Runcorn, Cheshire, with 150 tonnes of chloroform.

In June it was fined £80,000 for the accidental release of 56 tonnes of trichloroethylene, a cleaning fluid, at the same site, some of which contaminated the nearby Western Canal. ICI was also fined £2,500 for allowing 200 tonnes of naphtha to escape from underground tanks at Brinefields, Cleveland, contaminating marshland and killing birds, fish and plants.

In second place on the table is Tyseley Waste Disposal, which was fined £95,000 last year for losing two "radioactive sources" during demolition of an incinerator.

London Waste was fined £38,500 for burning unauthorised waste and for failing to comply with an enforcement notice. Other waste companies shamed in the report are Alco Waste Management and Caird Environmental.

Archie Robertson, the Environment Agency's director of operations, said that it was of particular concern that waste management firms were flouting the laws because "after all, they are meant to be there to clean up the environment."

Wessex Water was prosecuted five times last year and fined £36,500 mostly for sewage pollution. It was fined £15,000 in April after sewage from its Trowbridge treatment works entered the River Bliss, killing more than 5,000 fish. Other water firms in the hall of shame include Anglian, North West, Welsh and Severn Trent. Shell UK was fined £20,000 in October for polluting the Manchester Ship Canal with 140 tonnes of oil from its manufacturing complex in Ellsemere Port. BNFL was fined £20,000 for breaking discharge conditions covering non-radioactive trade effluent from its Springfield site in Preston into the River Ribble.

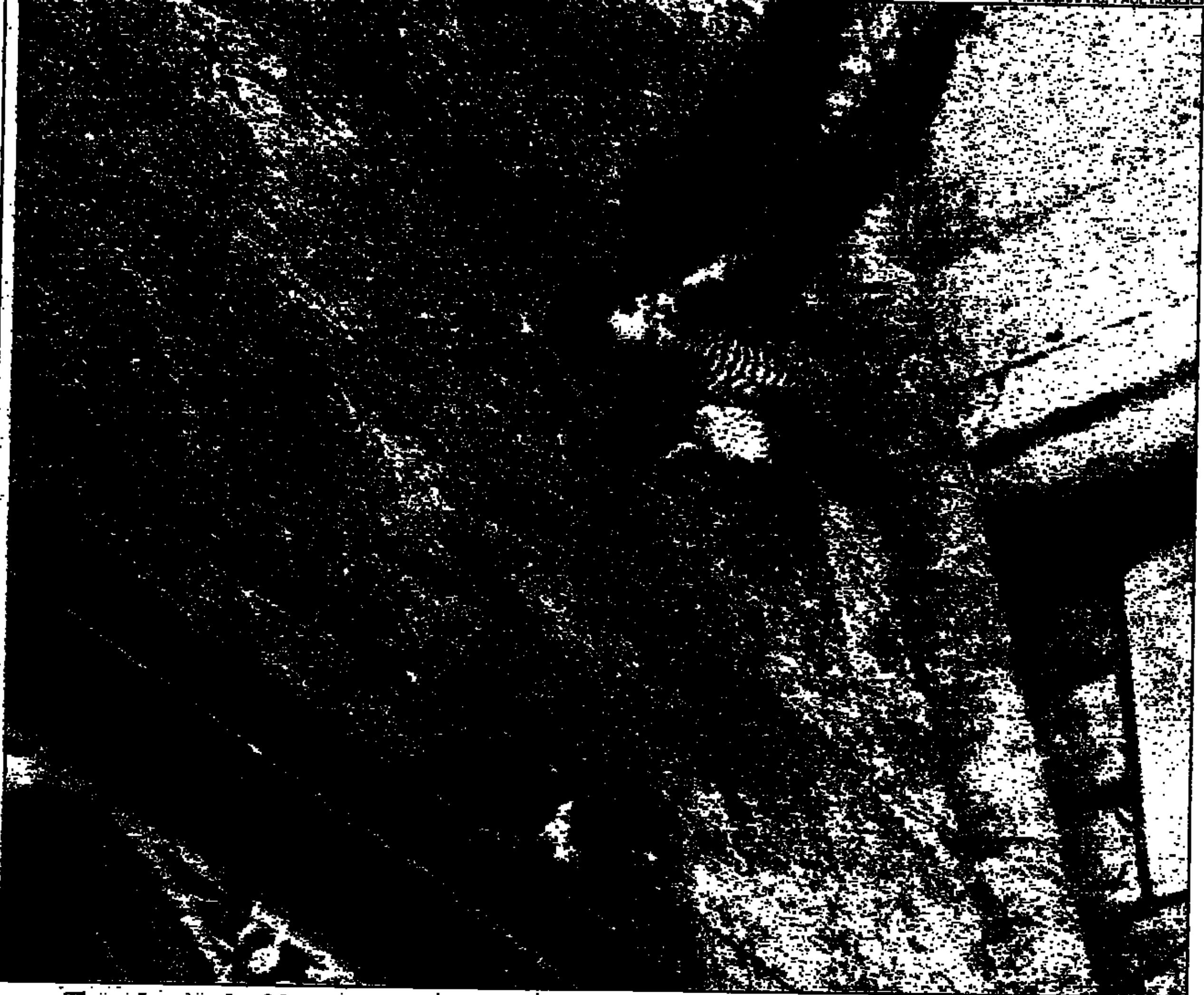
The hall of shame, which the agency plans to update annually, attracted applause from environmental groups. Friends of the Earth agreed that fines were "pitiful". "ICI, who came top of the list, were fined less than 0.15 per cent of profits," the group said.

Graham Setterfield, of Water UK, which represents the water industry, said that nearly £1.5 billion had been spent over the past ten years in reducing pollution.

HALL OF SHAME

Top ten polluters in 1998:
ICI, fined £382,500
Tyseley Waste Disposal, fined £95,000
London Waste, fined £38,500
Wessex Water, fined £36,500
Alco Waste Management, fined £30,000
Anglian Water Services, fined £24,250
EOM Construction, fined £21,000
Shell UK, fined £20,000
BNFL, fined £20,000
Celtic Energy, fined £18,000

PHOTOGRAPHS: PAUL ROGERS


The male peregrine falcon swoops on its mate, perched on a ledge of the church spire. Food is plentiful here


A rare photograph of falcons mating in urban Britain

Falcons find a city sanctuary

By Our Environment Correspondent

THE noise and bustle of a city centre has proved no deterrent to a pair of peregrine falcons that has nested on a church spire in Bath — lured there by the plentiful pigeons.

Peregrine falcons normally prefer high, hidden, locations like cliffs and quarries. As their numbers continue to expand after falling to a few hundred pairs in the Fifties and Sixties, they are obviously beginning to push inland. St John's Roman Catholic Church with its height and flocks of prey is clearly an ideal nesting site.

A sighting of the birds, which grow to about two feet long with a three-foot wingspan, in an inner city is rare.

Graham Elliot of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said yesterday: "I have not heard of photographs like this being taken."

Phil Hurrell, assistant producer of the BBC's *The Life of Birds* series, said: "It shows they have conquered their fear of humans. Obviously they are adapting themselves to our environment. Towns and cities are ideal for them. Buildings suit them as nesting sites and there are lots of pigeons waiting to be eaten."

Spending a fortune on sterling

Paul Sykes turned £170 into £325m. But he does not want that turned into euros, writes **Philip Webster**

ONE of Britain's wealthiest men is selling off large chunks of his £325 million (€486 million) business empire to oppose the euro and save sterling.

Paul Sykes, who formed his Democracy Movement at the end of last year, said yesterday that he was pulling out of business to engage in what he called "the biggest fight of all — the campaign to keep our democracy".

He said that he was willing to spend "what it takes" to build a mass campaign to collect and distribute information about the effects of the single currency. He is ready to sink at least £20 million (€30 million) of his personal fortune into what he said would be a marathon fight.

Mr Sykes, 55, wants to expand his organisation, which was formed by merging his Euro Information Campaign with the remnants of Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party, into a popular movement. It is not a political party and will not put up candidates at elections. But it will spend the years leading up to a referendum in 2001 or 2002 countering what he said would be the "deluge of one-sided information" from the Government and Brussels.

> ‘I could not live with myself if we lost our ability to govern’

After the Neill report on political funding, the Government is expected to limit the amount that parties and individuals can spend in the referendum campaign. But that does not apply to Mr Sykes and his team.

Literature will be sent to every home and there will be newspaper advertisements and videos. There will be a succession of "Democracy Days" to highlight what Mr Sykes sees as the threat of the euro to Britain's ability to govern.

He will include the trade unions in his campaign, because he believes that members are not getting the full information from their leaderships.

The Democracy Movement has attracted 65,000 members and has headquarters in London and 165 branches.

"I want to expand that to 2,000 to 3,000 branches," Mr Sykes said.

Mr Sykes said that after 38 years in business — he began with £170 (€254) and his wealth is put conservatively at £325 million (€486 million) — he wanted to devote all his energies to a cause he believed in more than anything else.

"I have had a successful business life but I could not live with myself if we lost our ability to govern, which is what the single currency means, without putting up the best fight I can muster against it," he said.

He said that he had tried to achieve his aims through the Conservative Party. At the last election he spent £1 million (€1.50 million) backing more than 200 Tory candidates who declared their opposition to the single currency.

But he said that the "leadership made the mistake of listening to the Clarkes and Heseltines" and he had given up hope that it would oppose in principle the single currency. "There is now no political party that is prepared to tell the British people what is being done in their name. The Tory position means that they are saying they might join at some future stage."

Mr Sykes, who is married with four children, has huge property and technology interests and owns 40 per cent of a big shopping centre near Sheffield. "I am already diluting my commitments but I will be selling the majority of my assets and giving up all my executive roles," he said. He added that his family fully backed his decision.

He is holding talks with the other organisations, such as Business for Sterling, that are pledged to oppose the single currency and will shortly have discussions with Lord Owen, leader of the all-party New Europe group.



JOHN HOULIHAN

Mr Sykes is prepared to spend £20 million sending leaflets to every home and expanding his Democracy Movement from 165 branches to 3,000

Tycoon buys into a new kind of scrap

Mark Inglefield profiles the pound's new champion

PAUL SYKES does not have the dash and glamour of the late Sir James Goldsmith, the last tycoon to finance a campaign against the euro, but few would deny that he has the spending power and the passion to continue his work.

Now 55, Mr Sykes is Britain's 67th richest man with an estimated fortune of £325 million. His success is a classic rags-to-riches tale. The son of a Yorkshire miner, he left school at 15 without a single O level and was told he would never amount to anything.

His first foray into business came two years later when he sank his savings into a company that broke up buses for scrap metal. That led to selling buses to the Third World.

During that period of his life he fondly recalls reading about the Beatles, who were then earning £1,000 a week. At that time he was 24, a millionaire, and drove a Rolls-Royce.

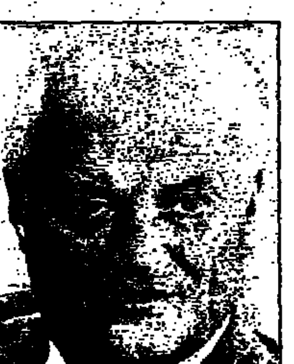
The core of his fortune is a mixture of interests. In the 1970s and 1980s he invested heavily and profitably in out-of-town retail and office parks, the largest being Sheffield's Meadowhall complex.

More recently he entered the burgeoning Internet sector. He recently sold his stake in Planet Online, the biggest internet provider in the business' market, for £50 million. He is also behind the Freeserve internet service offered by the retailers Dixons.

But he has long since tired off the trappings of wealth, and the yachts and private jets have all been sold and he has begun simplifying his lifestyle. He let go of his 17th-century manor house and now lives in what he describes as a small cottage in Yorkshire.

Mr Sykes does not smoke or drink, he buys his clothes from Marks & Spencer and he abhors frivolous spending.

Like many self-made men he does not believe in inherited wealth, and intends spending the bulk of his on environmental and wildlife projects before he dies.



James Goldsmith: also fought against the euro

Mr Sykes sent three of his four children to state schools because he feared that private education would turn them into "oddballs".

Nobody could doubt his commitment to the anti-single currency cause, given that he has already pledged £20 million to the Democracy Movement.

Before going out on his own, Mr Sykes had been a supporter and major donor to the Conservative Party. He withdrew his support from the Tories after becoming disillusioned with John Major's "wait and see" approach to the monetary union and stood down as the Tory candidate for Barnsley Central.

He has since spent more than £2 million on anti-EMU advertising and on backing Tories who campaigned on a Eurosceptic platform.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Killers may have sought diamond

Robbers who stabbed to death a wealthy jeweller and his wife may have been seeking a rare diamond that the couple are thought to have owned. It emerged yesterday that one of Mohammed Karim's sons had been attacked three years ago by criminals who were interested mainly in the diamond.

The bodies of Mr Karim, 52, and his wife, Bilquis, 48, were found in their shop in Preston, Lancashire on Friday. Their killers had left behind jewels and gold worth thousands of pounds.

Reserve burnt

Two thirds of the 340-acre Rosenannon Bog and Downs site of special scientific interest was damaged by a suspicious fire at the weekend. The site, near Wadebridge, Cornwall, is one of Britain's most important wildlife reserves.

Eurostar delay

Hundreds of Eurostar passengers travelling from Paris were stranded for about 80 minutes when a train broke down after emerging from the English end of the tunnel. Other services on the line were disrupted for some time.

Dog attacks boy

A mongrel that attacked Mitchell Howard, 3, near his home at Cannock, Staffordshire, has been put down. Mitchell's mother, Jan, fought off the dog but it seriously injured the boy, who could need plastic surgery to his face.

Zoo sanctuary

A £1.2 million enclosure for animals at risk of extinction is to be opened on Friday at Jersey Zoo on its 40th anniversary. The enclosure will initially house South American Andean bears, short-clawed otters and ring-tailed coatis.

Baby abandoned

A new-born baby has been found abandoned in a box in a shopping arcade in Leicester. The boy, just hours old, was taken to hospital, where his condition was said to be stable. Police appealed for his mother to come forward.

USS Churchill set to sail

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE EDITOR

NEXT month Sir Winston Churchill will become the first Englishman since the 18th century to have an American warship named after him.

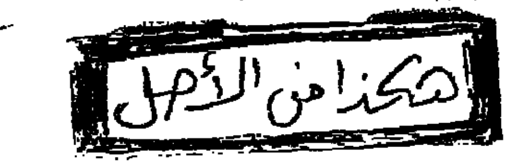
The *USS Winston S Churchill*, an Arleigh Burke class guided missile destroyer, is to be launched on April 17 at Bath in Maine. Sir Winston's daughter, Lady Mary Soames, will christen the ship and George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, will also attend.

The ship will be equipped with an advanced anti-submarine warfare system, Tomahawk cruise missiles and Harpoon anti-ship missiles.

The decision to name the destroyer after Churchill was made in 1995 by John Dalton, then American Navy Secretary. Mr Dalton said that Churchill had made "celebrated accomplishments as a political leader and skilled orator and had also achieved prominence as a soldier and author".

Churchill's name has been used twice on Royal Navy warships. The first *HMS Churchill* was an American destroyer, formerly the *USS Herndon*, that was commissioned into the Royal Navy in 1940. The second was a nuclear attack submarine launched in 1968 and decommissioned in the late 1980s.





هكذا من الأصل

Genius is in the mind of us all

Nigel Hawkes on a report that says creativity is in all of us, if we could only tap into it

THE ability to perform astonishing artistic, musical or mathematical feats is something we are all born with, according to scientists who have made a study of creativity and the unconscious workings of the brain.

But only those whose brains cannot see the bigger picture — such as mathematical savants, who are often autistic — retain the ability to make extraordinary mental leaps, say Allan Snyder and John Mitchell of the Centre for the Mind at the Australian National University in Canberra.

In a new interpretation of the powers of savants, they argue that such rare people have access to a world of unconscious information denied to the rest of us. Rather than savants having special powers, as others have argued, they claim that the same powers exist in everybody's brains but only those with a rare abnormality can access them.

That unconscious operation of the brain can explain why "sleeping on a problem" often leads to a solution, Professor Snyder says. "Creative leaps often follow long incubation periods when we are not even aware that our brains are working on a problem" he says.

"Understanding how this works could lead to huge increases in creativity."

Savants have long been a puzzle to philosophers and scientists. The feats they can perform are remarkable. They can multiply large numbers together in their heads or work out cube roots; children as young as three can produce remarkable drawings, or reproduce accurate sketches of entire buildings after a single glance. Musical savants possess perfect pitch, found in only one in 10,000 people.

Yet such people are often crippled by autism, a psychosis that prevents them relating to other people. And although mathematical savants may be able to calculate fast, they find it extremely difficult to learn even the simplest of mathematical concepts.

In *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, Professor Snyder and Professor Mitchell say that in a normal brain the underlying arithmetical operations are overlaid by conceptual processing that obscures them. Savants are often autistic, which means they lack that ability to conceptualise, so unconscious information comes through to them unsifted.

They suggest that drugs might allow normal people to tap their unconscious and match the feats of savants. There is evidence that savant skills have followed an illness, a major operation, or a near-drowning — reinforcing the belief that savant skills are innate in us all.

More interesting, Professor Snyder thinks, is the possibility of increasing creativity by encouraging the unconscious processes of the brain. "The mathematician Poincaré spent six months thinking about a problem, then the answer came to him one day as he was getting on to a bus," he says.

RONALD GRANT ARCHIVE



Dustin Hoffman, right, as the autistic brother in *Rain Man*

H.M. GOVERNMENT



Cesare Alessandro Scaglia by Van Dyck, worth £9.45m

£9m Van Dyck portrait is left to the nation

By Dalya Alberge
Arts Correspondent

ONE of the greatest portraits by Van Dyck, a £9.45 million masterpiece that the 17th-century artist painted at the height of his fame and power, has been saved for the nation.

The full-length portrait of Cesare Alessandro Scaglia, Abbé of Stafforda and Mandanici, by Charles I's court painter, has been accepted by the Government in lieu of inheritance tax.

The announcement will be made today by Alan Howarth, the Arts Minister, on the 400th anniversary of the artist's birth.

The painting, which has been on loan to the National Gallery since 1996, has been left by the estate of the 2nd Viscount Camrose, the newspaper baron who died in 1995 at the age of 85.

Its fate after Lord Camrose's death had particularly worried the art world, which feared that it would leave Britain after being auctioned. Last summer the contents of Lord Camrose's house, Hackwood Park Estate in Hampshire, were sold off at Christie's after his younger brother, Lord Hartwell, executor of the estate, said that it was too expensive to maintain: some 1,700 items fetched about £7 million, distributed to nearly 70 beneficiaries.



Lord Camrose: painting left in lieu of tax

The Government is to lend the portrait to the Koninklijk Museum in Antwerp and the Royal Academy of Arts: they are collaborating on a major Van Dyck retrospective that comes to London this September and whose patrons are the Queen, and King Albert II and Queen Paola of Belgium.

Mr Howarth said: "This is a magnificent portrait by one of the greatest painters of the 17th century. I am delighted that it has been saved for the nation ... And it is fitting that the Government has been able to loan the picture to Antwerp, Van Dyck's birthplace, for the important exhibition which will come to London."

Sir Anthony Van Dyck (1599-1641) — who trained with Rubens — was employed from 1632 until his death in England as court painter to Charles I, where he worked from a studio at Blackfriars. His portrait of Abbé Scaglia — Ambassador to Rome, Paris and London and Van Dyck's main patron in Flanders between 1634 and 1635 — is revered for the portrayal of the sitter's dignity, sensitivity and spirituality.

The Van Dyck negotiations have been conducted by Christie's. Christopher Brown, director of the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford and organiser of the RA exhibition, described it as "one of the very greatest Van Dycks, one of the ten best portraits by him".

David Barrie, director of the National Art Collections Fund — which, with limited funds, helps museums to purchase works of art — said: "This emphasises the importance of the acceptance-in-lieu arrangement to our national collections, expecially when money for acquisitions from the lottery is diminishing."

Eventually, it is believed, the painting is to reside at the National Gallery.

Chemical key to bone disease

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

POTENTIAL new treatments for the bone-thinning disease osteoporosis have been discovered by a biotechnology company based in Seattle.

Nand Baindur of ZymoGenetics told the American Chemical Society meeting in Anaheim, California, yesterday that three new chemicals had shown the ability to encourage bone growth in animal trials.

Existing treatments, including the use of oestrogens, mostly act to decrease bone loss. "Our new bone-forming agents may have better and more widespread utility for treatment of osteoporosis," Dr Baindur said.

Bone undergoes a continuous process of remodelling, with old bone disappearing as new bone is created by cells called osteoblasts. Osteoporosis is caused by bone loss that is not renewed. The result is a loss of bone mass and increased risk of fractures, especially in older women.

Attempts have been made to encourage new bone growth by injecting proteins to stimulate the osteoblasts. But Dr Baindur said that clinical trials had been mostly inconclusive or unsuccessful and that the treatment was expensive. The chemicals discovered by ZymoGenetics, which is wholly owned by the Danish group Novo Nordisk, are inexpensive and can be taken by mouth.

Dr John Fordham, consultant rheumatologist at South Cleveland Hospital in Middlesbrough, said that any new drug that was simple to use, safe, and increased bone growth would be welcome.

Porter set for new fight over homes for votes

Dame Shirley is in court for the next round of £27m battle, reports Mark Henderson

THE former leader of Westminster City Council, Dame Shirley Porter, will today begin her latest attempt to clear her name over the homes-for-votes scandal.

The Tesco heiress will ask the Court of Appeal to overturn the Divisional Court's decision to surcharge her £27 million for her role in gerrymandering and social engineering as leader of the flagship Tory council in the 1980s.

Her lawyers will argue that she is a political scapegoat who has been unfairly persecuted for pursuing a controversial policy that she was convinced was legal.

Dame Shirley and David Weeks, her deputy, were found guilty in 1996 of wilful misconduct by the district auditor, John Magill, and surcharged the £31 million that he ruled their illegal policies had cost the council. The verdict was confirmed in December 1997 by the Divisional Court, though the surcharge was cut to £27 million and four others originally found guilty were acquitted.

The policy of "designating" council homes for sale to improve the chances of the Conservatives in key wards was designed to "achieve unlawful electoral advantage", the court found. Mr Weeks is also appealing.

The hearing will coincide with the publication of a draft Bill to establish a new ethical framework for local government. In future, allegations such as those made against Dame Shirley are likely to be dealt with by the criminal courts.

Dame Shirley is expected to attend the appeal, in a rare appearance in this county. Since Mr Magill announced in 1994 that he was "minded" to find her and colleagues guilty, she has lived mainly in Israel and California. Almost all her £70 million fortune is now tied up in the charitable Porter Foundation in Israel, raising concerns that Westminster is unlikely to retrieve any money if Dame Shirley loses her appeals.

Her legal team is headed by Lord Lester of Herne Hill, QC, the Liberal Democrat peer and prominent human rights lawyer who took on the Government over the publication of Peter Wright's *Spycatcher* book and represented George Blake, the Soviet spy. Lord Neill of Bladen was originally engaged as leading counsel, but he withdrew from the case after a public outcry over the conflict of interest it might create with his role as Chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life.

Dame Shirley's legal team will challenge the court's ruling that she could not have believed the policy was lawful, even though she had taken advice that it was. They will also focus on the length and alleged one-sided nature of Mr Magill's investigation, in which the auditor acted as "investigator, prosecutor, judge, jury and executioner".

TONY WHITE



Dame Shirley Porter: her lawyers will tell the hearing that she believed legal advice that the policy was lawful

Public may get say in who sits as a judge

By Frances Gibb
Legal Correspondent

PLANS for changing the way judges are appointed by including lay people in the selection system are expected to be put forward within this Parliament by the Lord Chancellor.

Lord Irvine of Lairg gave a strong hint on Saturday that he intended to soon begin consultations on a Judicial Appointments Commission, a body to advise him on appointing judges.

The Lord Chancellor, who was addressing more than 100 lawyers in London at the Ethnic Minority Lawyers Conference, did not indicate his own view on the controversial proposal, which would run into opposition from many judges. Opponents fear it could lead to judges being appointed to represent a particular sex or minority group.

Lord Irvine also announced a new scheme in which ethnic minority lawyers thinking of applying for the junior part-time judicial posts would be encouraged to shadow judges to see what the work is like.

Straw orders 'Domesday' map of crime

By Richard Ford, home correspondent

A "DOMESDAY" map of crime is being drawn up as part of Jack Straw's drive to curb criminal and anti-social behaviour.

For the first time local authorities and the police in England and Wales are under a statutory duty to produce a crime reduction strategy for their districts. They must first give a detailed audit of criminal behaviour in their areas.

The guide to crime and disorder will highlight the levels of robbery, burglary, car thefts and sexual offences in all parts of the country. Crime "hot spots" should also be identified in the audits being carried out in each of 438 council areas in England and Wales which are now being collected in the Home Office.

But a quarter of local councils and police have failed to produce a satisfactory audit, and Whitehall has accused them of providing only sketchy details of the extent of crime and disorder in their communities.

The crime and disorder audit is part of Mr Straw's policy of forcing councils and other agencies to join police in taking responsibility for cutting crime and promoting safety on the streets.

The move is part of Mr Straw's overall drive to reverse the "walk-on-by" society and encourage everyone to have a part in curbing crime and disorder on the streets.

Many local audits have been frank about their areas. The London Borough of Hackney admits that all categories of serious crime are high and that it has a worse record than neighbouring boroughs such as Tower Hamlets, Islington, and Newham. Hackney's candid report, which lists crime "blackspots" in the borough, has won praise from the Home Office.

But about 110 of the audits, including those from Newcastle upon Tyne and the City of Westminster, are not considered by Whitehall to be addressing the real crime problems of their areas.

The audit will be repeated throughout the country in three years.

Europe spars over heir to Santer throne

Nordic states back Dutchman for top job, writes Charles Bremner

THE European Union moved closer last night to endorsing Romano Prodi, the former Italian Prime Minister, for the European Commission presidency but several states, possibly including France, were backing Wim Kok, the Dutch Prime Minister.

At a final ministerial session before a vital EU summit in Berlin on Wednesday, diplomats said Signor Prodi appeared to have majority backing as best qualified to take over from Jacques Santer, who resigned with his whole team last week in a scandal over bad leadership.

Faced with a power vacuum in Brussels, EU leaders are under pressure to settle on a new presidential name in Berlin, but the necessary unanimous decision would require the three Nordic states plus Belgium and Luxembourg to withdraw backing for Mr Kok.

Signor Prodi's candidature won a new boost last night when Spain, which had been backing its own man for the Commission job, came out in support of the Italian. Abel Matutes, the Spanish Foreign Minister, hailed Signor Prodi's competence and qualifications for running the Commission, adding: "He has a Mediterranean sensibility which means Spain can fully support him." This confirmed that Spain was no longer lobbying for Javier Solana, the Secretary-General of Nato.

The foreign ministers last night also sketched the outlines of a potential deal in Berlin to end the wrangle over EU finances. Desperate to reach an accord at a time of EU crisis, Germany has softened some of its own demands and has dropped demands to scrap the British budget rebate, proposing only adjustments to it.

Ironically, the Commission crisis is widely seen as making a deal on the budget reform much more likely in Berlin because of the need to achieve something quickly to start extracting the Union from its malaise. Eager for any deal, Germany is expected to accept only a modest cut in its own £7 billion net contribution to the EU budget. In a conciliatory move intended to smooth the way for Signor Prodi, Italy has told Bonn that it can accept a change in the finance calculations that will raise its own annual contribution, according to diplomats.

French diplomatic sources added fuel for fresh speculation over the incoming Commission by indicating that President Chirac had told Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, that he could accept Mr Kok in the top post, although he favoured Signor Prodi. The Dutch leader has said he is not interested in the job. But last night he was understood to be seriously considering his position, according to British officials, and might yet throw his hat into the ring.

Germany, France and Britain are all understood to have told Herr Schröder, the EU's president-in-office, that they would back Signor Prodi, who is the only declared candidate for the Santer succession.

Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Belgium and Luxembourg are all believed to have argued that Mr Kok is best qualified to force through the deep reform that northern Europe believes to be vital for the Commission's salvation. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, last night presented the ministers with Tony Blair's own six-point plan for revamping the Brussels executive, which he announced in the House of Commons last week.

British officials said that Mr Blair had spoken about the Commission crisis to Mr Kok twice in recent days.

Herr Schröder is playing down the prospect of an accord on the senior Commission post in Berlin.

A new line-up is likely to be proposed in early April, along with a president. A big question is whether the incoming team will include former members untainted in the report which brought down Mr Santer. Britain wants to reappoint Sir Leon Brittan and Neil Kinnock, its two Commissioners, but the European Parliament, Germany, France and other states are believed to want an entirely new body.

Leading article, page 21



FRANCESCO PROIETTI / AP

President Jiang tours Venice from a gondola yesterday at the beginning of his three-nation European tour. He has already faced criticism from the Vatican over China's treatment of its ten-million strong Christian minority

Jiang takes a slow boat from China

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

JIANG ZEMIN, the Chinese President, yesterday toured Venice at the start of an 11-day European trip which will take him to Austria and Switzerland as well as Italy.

Diplomats said Beijing hoped to bolster its ties with Europe at a time when its relations with the United States are under strain.

But Italian officials said they would convey to Mr Jiang European "unease" over Beijing's crackdown on dissent, including the imprisonment of dissidents seeking to set up an opposition party.

Mr Jiang's visit has been overshadowed by criticism from the Vatican of China's suppression of its Christian minority, and in particular the persecution of its ten million Roman Catholics.

It called on Beijing to release two Catholic bishops detained without trial for three years. Mr Jiang will today meet Italian leaders in Rome, but no meeting is scheduled with the Pope.

Joschka can win where Oskar failed

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

Europe is stumbling towards a compromise at the Berlin summit this week but Gerhard Schröder, the Chancellor, having completed his 14-nation European tour, was upbeat at the weekend.

There will be rows about money but the Chancellor has an even chance of being able to portray himself, this time next week, as Europe's saviour. He certainly needs the favourable publicity.

Only a few months into his chancellorship he has already reached his first crossroads. The road to disaster beckons: a bungled summit, a difficult Social Democratic conference on April 12 in which he only scrapes into the party chairmanship, regional election defeats for which he is blamed, the unravelling of deals with the Greens, the economy running out of steam, rising unemployment, reforms blocked and a bloody war in Kosovo.

In this scenario Germany lurches from crisis to crisis at the precise moment that it shifts the hub of power from Bonn to Berlin. The Chancellor could just rescue himself by forming a grand coalition with the Christian Democrats.

The second path projects Herr Schröder into a position of power similar to that of Helmut Kohl at his peak. This week's summit goes well; a Commission president — Romano Prodi — is quickly agreed, the Social Democrats accept his authority, he wins well in the European and regional elections, the grumbling Greens fall into line even over the Kosovo war.

For the Chancellor to find his way on to this golden road he needs Joschka Fischer, the student revolutionary who with a sure political touch and an iron will has converted his ramshackle Green Party into an instrument of power.

Herr Fischer, once a plump clown, now a wiry strategist, is the most effective Foreign Minister since Hans-Dietrich Genscher. He believes the euro is a vital step towards political unity.

He wants a stronger European Parliament, a more pronounced European defence identity and a European constitution.

In contrast to Oskar Lafontaine, Herr Fischer likes Britain and understands it (like many of the 1968 generation, *Monty Python* was the only thing he bothered to watch on television).

The Foreign Minister, who ran last week's Cabinet meeting in the absence of the Chancellor, is critical to the future success of Herr Schröder.

First, since Oskar's fall he has become the main conviction politician in the Cabinet. He believes in "ethical" policy, in pushing human rights to centre stage, in a Germany constantly aware of its history; the minister is one of the few to speak with passion about the need to enlarge the European Union eastwards. If the Berlin summit succeeds, it will be primarily the work of Herr Fischer and his sherpas.

Second, he has found a way of contributing responsibly to government in spite of his chaotic party.

Herr Fischer, rather than Herr Schröder, is Germany's Tony Blair. Only on the issue of nuclear power, where the interests of two sections of the Green Party overlap and conflict, is there a problem.

The Chancellor can certainly survive without Oskar. Whether he will flourish depends on Joschka.

Serbs unleash new wave of Kosovo terror

FROM ANTHONY LOYD IN SRBICA, KOSOVO



SERB forces rampaged unchecked for a second day through central Kosovo yesterday, forcing thousands more ethnic Albanians to flee from their homes only a day after international monitors abandoned their mission there.

In Pristina four Serbian policemen were shot dead and a fifth was injured late yesterday in an ambush.

Joe Hegenauer, head of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees mission in Kosovo, said that the situation, which has accelerated out of control in the 24 hours since the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe's verifiers departed, had reverted to that of last autumn. Then Serb military offensives laid waste swaths of territory and caused an exodus of refugees.

"In the last week we've had the biggest move of displaced people since September," he said. "We've probably had 100,000 move since December 24, and 60,000 since Rambouillet . . . The Albanians are running through Kosovo. There are people on the move and no way to stop this."

The most recent offensive began on Saturday as the 1,400 monitors' crossed the border into Macedonia. Groups of Serb special forces in white overalls and black balaclavas swarmed through Albanian homes in Srbica, 20 miles northwest of Pristina. Terrified civilians poured from their houses as streets echoed with gunfire and tanks pushed up on to surrounding hills. The town's 11,000-strong population, predominantly Albanian, had already been swollen by 7,000 refugees who fled fighting earlier this week when Serbs consolidated their positions around Drenica.

The road west to neighbouring Lausa, held by the Kosovo Liberation Army, was filled with refugees. Few had anything other than the clothes in which they stood. Many men had been beaten, and all told of between bodies lying in the streets.

Abandoned at the edge of Srbica, three small children ran sobbing first one way, then another as small-arms fire clattered around them and the first roofs began to smoke.

"We didn't run away, they forced us to leave," said Selim Dragaj, an ashen-faced man who was driving 12 family members out on a trailer. "They told me: Take only your shoes and leave for Albania. You wanted to be part of Albania so go there. Don't stop running until you cross the Yugoslav border'."

Another man, who lay in the arms of his small son, his mouth burst open from a rifle butt blow, said: "The Serbs came into our house and beat us. They asked for money, beat us again, took my car, everything I had, beat me again and threatened my wife and children."

Simultaneously, Serb tanks and armoured personnel carriers advanced south along the road from the town towards Komorane, 12 miles distant, pounding the KLA-held village of Poljance en route.

The KLA fought back here, killing at least two soldiers before being smothered by incoming artillery. The offensive seems part of a larger operation that over the past month has secured the roadways and mountain ranges surrounding the Drenica region. Srbica is on an intersection within that zone and its purging has helped the Serb military to cordon and then clear the area of KLA and Albanian civilians.

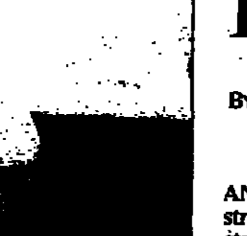
Coming less than 12 hours after President Clinton made a televised address, in which he accused Yugoslavia alone of being responsible for the failure of peace talks and gave a warning that "Serbia has already crossed the threshold", the scale of fighting lends credence to the view that the Serbs are trying to create an ethnically pure territory north of the Pristina to Pec road.

If they achieve that quickly enough, President Milosevic could present the West with a de facto partition of Kosovo as the basis for a new round of negotiations with a solution favourable to Yugoslavia. Yesterday Srbica had been transformed. Streets were empty but for Serb troops and police. The roadway to Lausa was empty too, only an elderly Albanian couple could be seen walking hand-in-hand back towards Serb lines. "We are going back to find our son," Raza Zenuni explained. She had been beaten the day before when Serb police entered her flat and forced them out, arresting their son, 33.

"The last we saw of our boy was him being taken away with his hands in the air. It is better to go there now, even if it is to die with him."

Some of the thousands of Albanians fleeing a renewed Serb offensive in the Drenica region of Kosovo yesterday en route for Glogovac, near Pristina

CLIVE POSTLETHWAITE



B52s wait at RAF Fairford, in Gloucestershire, for the order to commence airstrikes

Belgrade calm as state media shun reality

BY TOM WALKER IN BELGRADE AND MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

AN UNEASY calm before the storm stretched over Belgrade yesterday as state media kept most Serbs cocooned within an illusory Nato-free world that could be shattered by cruise missiles at any moment this week.

Despite a crisis that could bring about martial law and a much-feared witch-hunt of opposition parties and "traitors" with Western links, there was an almost total lack of debate on the Government's disastrous policy in Kosovo. Even so-called independent television channels like that owned by Serbia's most powerful businessman, Bogoljub Karic, carried only statements from China and Russia supporting Yugoslavia's territorial integrity.

No station showed any images of the humanitarian catastrophe in Kosovo; instead of pictures of refugees in the snow and burning villages, there were simply maps and selective reports of the police being fired at by snipers, and of Albanian "terrorists". In the most bizarre coverage, by the state news agency Tanjug, Kosovo was said to be "calm".

Britain warned President Milosevic of Yugoslavia yesterday that if he continued to obstruct the path to peace, he was leaving the West with no option but to launch airstrikes. "We are serious. This is for real," Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said. "The escalation of violence of the last 24 hours is very worrying." Speaking on *Breakfast with Frost*, Mr Cook said the West was seeking stability in which the people of Kosovo were free from repression. "If it takes military actions to achieve that, then military action is the logical step that we have to take."

The Paris peace talks were suspended on Friday, Mr Cook said, because he and Hubert Védrine, his French counterpart, concluded that the Serbs were not negotiating in good faith.

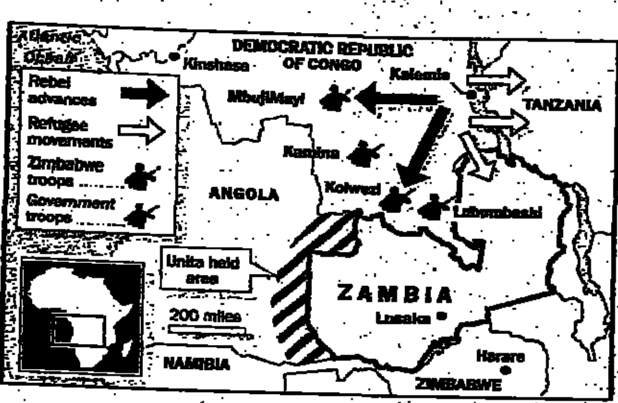
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Neighbours drag Zambia into war

FROM SAM KILEY IN JOHANNESBURG

ZAMBIA appears poised to be the latest African nation that is sucked into a war with its neighbours as bombings and an influx of refugees raise fears of a widening of the civil wars in Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Until now it has managed to maintain a precarious "neutrality" in the two civil wars across its borders. But these wars have now blurred into one and dragged in eight other countries.



Tensions with neighbouring Angola have been running high since the Government in Luanda accused President Chiluba's regime of backing the rebel Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) faction. Now, as Congo rebels, in alliance with Unita, advance south towards Lubumbashi, the capital of Katanga province which sits close to the Zambian border, Mr Chiluba is under pressure to take sides.

His instinct is to repeat the support he gave to the Rwanda and Uganda-backed rebels of the Congo who crossed Zambian territory during their campaign to oust Mobutu Sese Seko two years ago. But this strategy would immediately provoke an attack by Angola on his western flank.

The Congo rebels are once again closing in on his borders. This week 350 Congolese soldiers and about 6,000 refugees fled into northeast Zambia. The soldiers have been disarmed, but if more of them pour into Zambia, the rebels are bound to pursue them.

Godson Machona, of the independent newspaper *The Post* in Lusaka, said: "There is a real possibility that Zambia will be dragged into these civil wars . . . There are already rumours that Unita passed through Zambian territory to join up with their allies in the Congo. This has angered the Angolan Government which has troops fighting on the side of the Congo Government. In addition, Zimbabwean soldiers fighting for the Congo Government have also been crossing through our territory, so they could be attacked here by the Congo's rebels." He added: "The fact is that Zambia's borders are unmanned."

There are many incentives for the antagonists to cross into Zambia. The Angolan Government, or its allies from Zimbabwe, Namibia, Chad, and Sudan, will be tempted to attack Unita refugee camps inside Zambia's western border to cut Unita's links with the Congo rebels. Intelligence sources say Congo's rebels have already acquired Sam-16 anti-aircraft missiles. Last week a Zimbabwean jet was shot down with one of them. Angola and its allies would like to cut Unita's supply lines through Zambia, as much as the Congo rebels are anxious to stop Congo's allies being supplied via Zambia's rail network.

There is some evidence that one or other side has already started a campaign of insurgency inside Zambia. Last month more than a dozen bombs were planted in Lusaka and the economically vital copper-belt area of northern Zambia. The Angolan Embassy was among the targets. The bombings have so far defied explanation by Zambian officials and American investigators.

"Nothing is certain other than that Zambia is trapped and about to become the meat in a terrible sandwich. There seems little Zambians can do other than cross their fingers or pray," a Western diplomat in the Zambian capital said.

☐ **Debt burden:** An Oxfam survey to be released today will reinforce its campaign to erase the debt burden of the world's poorest countries by highlighting the burden on education. The report states that 125 million children of primary school age are out of school, and that by 2015, 75 per cent of children out of school will be Africans, a tragic development when "education saves lives" and reduces crimes.



Mark Chavunduka, left, and Ray Choto, badly beaten by the Zimbabwean authorities, are to challenge the constitutionality of a law used to incarcerate and torture them (Michael Dynes writes).

Mr Chavunduka, 37, editor of the country's *The Standard*, and Mr Choto, 33, its chief reporter — seen in London where they are being treated after their ordeal — will appear in a Harare court in [illegible] accused of spreading alarm and despondency. The paper had said that 23 army officers had been arrested for plotting a coup. The two face up to seven years in jail.

The charges are being brought under the Law and Order (Maintenance) Act, introduced by the white Rhodesian Government to suppress African nationalism.



LARRY DOWNING / REUTERS

Mr Clinton with congresswoman Lorreta Sanchez at a weekend Democrats' meeting in the White House

Monica spoof tickles Clinton

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton played the good sport as he sat through a merciless satire of the Monica Lewinsky affair. A chorus of Lewinskys, each with angled beret and a soiled blue dress, paraded on stage.

"Trial of the Century," screamed the "*Monica-ettes*". "Who dreamt it would star reams of naughty prose, a girl's dirty clothes . . . ?" A tenor playing one of Mr Clinton's lawyers sang a send-up of *Love is a Many-Splendoured Thing* as: "Sex is a definition thing". Bruce Springsteen's *Born in the USA* was reworked as "Caught by his DNA".

The event was the annual white-tie dinner of the Gridiron Club where senior Washington journalists put on a series of skits lampooning politicians. Their aim is to singe their victims but not burn them and Mr Clinton said they had succeeded. "I had a wonderful time," he claimed.

Still, some Gridiron members were concerned that the humour was too rough in places. But when it was his turn to speak, Mr Clinton poked fun at himself. He conceded that 1998 was an awful year: "It was a year I wouldn't wish on my worst enemy." Then after a pause, he said: "I take that back" — and everyone guessed that he had Kenneth Starr, the special prosecutor, in mind.

Mr Clinton, having once boasted of his faith in "a place called Hope", his early boyhood home in Arkansas, said: "I want you to know, through it all, I still believe in a place called Hell." He mused about titles for his memoirs, including "Beyond Hope", and said he had settled on "My Story and I'm Sticking to It".

Mr Clinton enjoyed his heartiest laugh when a Hillary Clinton figure, dressed as the Statue of Liberty, sang of her Senate hopes to the tune of New York: "My Whitewater blues, are washing away, I'll show those right-wing nuts, this broad's got more than guts . . . "

Mrs Clinton did not see the spoof. She and daughter Chelsea had already left Washington for a 12-day trip to Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Thousands flee Borneo as 96 die in ethnic fight

Sambas, Indonesia: Hundreds of euphoric warriors, some wearing shirts stained with victims' blood, pillaged and burnt abandoned homes on Borneo island yesterday after ethnic slaughter left at least 96 people dead. A chunk of flesh dangled by a string from the spear of one fighter, who said it was the heart of a man he had killed. A few carried ears and pieces of scalp.

Ritual savagery has consumed a coastal region near the Malaysian border since gangs of ethnic Malay, Dayak and Bugis men set upon immigrants from Madura island last week. For the most part, the military has kept clear of the conflict. More than 15,000 Madurese — many have suffered frequent attacks despite having lived for decades in Borneo — have fled.

Finns re-elect centrists

Helsinki: The Finnish opposition Centre Party looked likely to return to power after narrowly beating the ruling Social Democrats and Conservatives in elections, preliminary results showed. Electoral commission officials said the Centre won 25.2 per cent of the vote, the Prime Minister Paavo Lipponen's SDP received 23 per cent and the co-ruling Conservatives gained 21.1 per cent. *(Reuters)*

New Queen for Jordan



Amman: King Abdullah of Jordan has bestowed on his wife, Princess Rania, left, the title of queen, palace sources said. The Princess, 28, was born in Kuwait of Palestinian parents and the couple were married in June 1993. The status of Queen Noor, 47, the American-born fourth wife of the late King Hussein, will not be affected. King Abdullah has declared her son, Prince Hamzah, 18, to be his heir. *(Reuters)*

1,000 Kurds arrested

Diyarbakir: Violence and a police crackdown marked the Kurdish new year in Turkey on Sunday, with police arresting 1,000 people across the country and putting the Kurdish-dominated southeast under a virtual state of siege. Tension has already been running high after a surge of violent attacks blamed on Kurdish rebels seeking to avenge the capture of Abdullah Ocalan, the Kurdish Workers' Party leader. *(AP)*

Bushmen regain land

Askham: South Africa's first inhabitants got back some of their lost homeland when Thabo Mbeki, the Deputy President, signed a restitution settlement with a tribe of Kalahari Bushmen. The 400-strong Khomani San community regained 100,000 acres of the Kalahari after the Government spent 15 million rand (about £1.6 million) to buy out the occupying white farmers. *(AFP)*

Battery farm bears milked for medicine

China flouts law as animals suffer to meet demand for traditional remedies, writes James Pringle

THE brochure for the Ruili Dianye pharmaceutical factory, where 230 black bears are milked for the bile from their gall bladders, says reassuringly that the animals "enjoy themselves in a comfortable environment".

But a correspondent who visited the place, opened in 1988 near China's border with Burma in southwestern Yunnan province, and also known — with some exaggeration — as Ruili Wild Animal Ranch, saw bears in 5ft by 2ft 6in cages. The factory is little better than a prison camp for them.

The animals were unable to turn round in the cages and some groaned either in pain or grief, or swung to and fro in a manner sugggesting extreme frustration or mental disturbance. Some had red, raw stomach wounds, where a steel catheter had been inserted into their sides attached to a plastic tube which carried the precious bile to a receptacle.

The bear bile, siphoned off every few days, is used for treating liver problems, shock from severe burns, haemorrhoids, conjuctivitis and sinusitis and even some cancers. The gall bladders are used for serious liver diseases, including cancer and cirrhosis.

The Dianye factory is several miles outside Ruili, in pleasant rural surroundings beside the Jiele reservoir.

The correspondent had not expected to be allowed to visit but expressed an interest in purchasing such products as bear bile wine and oral bear bile liquid, and was invited to make a tour.

The young female attendants, although they asked the visitor to refrain from taking photograph, seemed pleasant enough and did not seem cruel or even unkind to animals. One demonstrated the size of a cub recently born there.

Unofficial figures suggest that 8,000 to 10,000 bears are caged in China in battery bear farms like this. There are only about 12,000 left in the wild in China, and those being brought into captivity are mostly smuggled across the border from Burma. These bear farms, distasteful though they are, are hardly worse than the West's battery hen farms or mink enclosures.

Some environmentalists argue that at least they take some of the pressure off bears in the wild, which are still hunted illegally, their bile being considered of a far superior quality.

Assistants here said that Hong Kong and South Korea represent the largest markets. There are probably more than 400 bears farms in China, producing nearly seven tonnes of bile a year.

Staff at the Dianye factory say that they breed bears, and certainly in some larger cages there were two together. They seemed to be holding one another for comfort. Some cubs are being reared, but the staff would not let them be seen.

The United Nations Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species bans the export of bear bile, along with rhinoceros horn and tiger parts, but all these trades still go on.

Even if these farms were outlawed in China it would make no difference. Drug trafficking, gambling and prostitution — all illegal — remain widespread. The vested interests of those in charge, who are unlikely to be dislodged any time in the near future, animal welfare groups believe.

A resident correspondent becomes inured to animal suffering in China, including their public torture for fun in zoos. Bear paws and fragment meat (dogmeat) are sometimes on the menu at official functions. Snakes are skinned alive for soup. Fish and shrimps are still alive at the tableside. Dogs await their fate in cages outside restaurants.

The Chinese in general treasure their traditional medicine, which has a history going back thousands of years, and they resent any foreign criticism. And, as many people here become more prosperous, the market for bear bile is growing.





An attendant at the factory indicates the size of a newborn cub; right, an advertisement for bear bile



A bear in the allegedly "comfortable environment" at Dianye pharmaceutical factory

Dope tourists reopen hippy trail to Laos

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PHNOM PENH



WHILE leaders of the Khmer Rouge were recently given a VIP tour of the country they tore apart, all seemingly forgiven, seven little old ladies in Phnom Penh's Russian market were arrested for selling marijuana which was, until recently, perfectly legal because it gives a bite to duck soup.

This was bad news for backpacking world travellers, the latter-day hippies, who had not stocked up at the market. Recently 200 cigarettes retailed there for just a few dollars — in the 1970s it was only a dollar for 200 reefers.

With the ending of decades of war in Cambodia, the surrender of most of the last Khmer Rouge, plus the recent opening of two border crossing points that can take backpackers from Thailand to Cambodia for the first time since the 1970s without a plane ticket, Phnom Penh is suddenly full of world travellers, young and not so young.

The same is true of the hippy trail from backpacker central in Bangkok's Khao San Road to Laos, where this nominally Communist state turns a blind eye to those wanting the opium experience, though opium is technically illegal.

For many younger travellers, carrying their copy of the current cult novel, Alex Garland's *The Beach*, these countries represent heaven.

Burma, although the source of most of the region's hard drugs, is less of a drug scene itself, and China is a no-no — executions of dealers are commonplace — but there are plenty of local addicts in both.

Yet the scene in Cambodia and Laos is no re-run of the flower power era. Both have changed since the 1970s when in Vientiane you could smoke grass, if so inclined, while enjoying the pleasures of Madame Lulu's or the White Rose — both better unadulterated by substances.

The countries are different, both having endured terrible wars with horrific American bombing along the Ho Chi Minh trail, and in Cambodia the ruthless social experiment of the Khmer Rouge. "There's a harder-edged quality to both countries now," said one Phnom Penh resident. "They have lost something of their charm. The Cambodians in the 1970s were like babies, and they used to say they liked lying down watching the rice grow, while the Laotians were so laid back they liked to listen to it grow."

The backpackers are different, too. Instead of penniless kids, many travellers are stockbrokers or lawyers who have taken a year's sabbatical, and may have £30,000 to spend.

Anthony Alderson, general manager of the Foreign Correspondents Club in Phnom Penh, has been among the first to target backpackers.

"Some of the older ones had been in Asia in the 1970s and want to reacquaint themselves, perhaps relive, some youthful experience. But many others, here for the first time, are wowed by being away from a more predictable life in Europe or America.

"When I was on the road some years ago, our lives centred on the post office and poste restante where you could pick up your mail. Nowadays travellers keep in contact by e-mail: that is why we are opening an Internet café here."

People tend to be more cautious, too. The freewheeling lifestyle is still there, but inevitably some of the charm has gone. Backpackers no longer wear flowers in their hair. And seven little old ladies are awaiting their day in court.

هكذا من الأصل

We'd rather be in Bournemouth than LA

Anne Barrowclough meets the world's most famous — and modest — brass band

Music men: Black Dyke Mills Brass Band

Geoff Whitely, the administrator of the Black Dyke Mills Brass Band, looks out of the window at the huge black mill chimney that dominates the landscape and gives a little chuckle.

"Well," he says, "I did wonder if we were doing the right thing when I said that we couldn't play at the Oscars because we were booked to play in Bournemouth. A bit of soul-searching went on, I have to admit. But we'd made a commitment and we had to keep to it. Simple as that."

If they had had different priorities, the world's most famous brass band would have been guests of honour at last night's glittering Oscars ceremony. Instead, with their values firmly entrenched in Middle England, they were in Bournemouth — a decision that astonished the showbiz world, where little is more coveted than an invitation to the Los Angeles celebrity fest.

"We're not pop stars, we're a brass band ensemble," says Bob Childs, the principal euphonium player and assistant conductor, as he adjusts his scarlet and blue band jacket over his ample tummy. "Even if we could have got out of the Bournemouth concert, we wouldn't have, because the organisers are our friends."

From anyone else, this could sound like hubris. But the Black Dyke band know their place, and it is not amidst the hype and hypocrisy of LA. It's here, in Queensbury, West Yorkshire, where in 1855 John Foster, a mill owner, philanthropist and enthusiastic French born player, decided to fund the local village band.

The members are revered, and once inside the bandroom, you understand why. Tatty and chilly, the room is also steeped in tradition. The music stands were made by Foster's joiners 150 years ago and there are shelves of scores from the last century.

"The bandroom's history weighs on you," admits Jim Watson, who has been the musical director for seven years. "You look around and realise you're just another guardian of the tradition.

"I came here as The Pro. I was a professor at the Royal Academy of Music and I'd played at Covent Garden. I had been roasted by the greatest maestros in the world. But I was never so terrified as when I stood in front of the band for the first time and had 25 pairs of Yorkshire eyes saying 'Go on, then, bloody show us'. I felt I had to prove myself to these men more than I'd ever had to prove myself before."

Band members give up much to be one of the Black Dyke men. Once they pass their audition, they accept that the band comes before everything. They don't get paid — concert fees cover expenses only -- but most still put careers and families second. Everyone has another job: there are teachers, engineers, financial experts and shop assistants. They tour in holiday time and some take unpaid leave.

"To be honest," says Childs in his blunt way, "I think there would have been a few sighs of relief when we decided against the Oscars because one or two of the lads wouldn't have been able to afford the time off work."

The passion these men, gruff and silent in their daily lives, show for their music is extraordinary. Ask about their wives and they say "Oh, the womenfolk understand the band comes first". Ask about the band and they become as lyrical as the melodies they play.

When I ask Whitely, who joined Black Dyke in 1957, why this is so, he stops stock still in front of an ancient photograph of the band and smiles. "I think it's because we northern men aren't very good at showing our emotions. We think a man who shows his feelings is a bit soft. But when we've got our music in front of us we can show everything we feel. I think that's why the band's as good as it is. Because it's only through the music that we can express our passions."

Matt Baker agrees: "It's when I'm playing my cornet that I show all my love and all my anger. This is where my emotions go now."

When Jim Watson was a boy all the children in his village were in the band. "It was as important as religion," he says. "More important — missing practice was worse than missing church. You learnt then never to let anyone down.

"That's the sort of morality that sticks with you. Always."

What are we doing to our children?

The pressure put on children by private schooling is intolerable, argues **Olivia Lichtenstein**

SUZANNE HUBBARD



Olivia Lichtenstein and Oscar: "On hearing that he was not to be interviewed by Latymer, he sobbed on my shoulder, saying 'I failed. I hate myself'"

It is no secret that our education system is less than perfect. But those of us who might have thought that a return to the old grammar school system was the answer are probably wrong. One need only look at what is happening in the private system to see that such a move could be a mistake.

This is the time of year when parents metaphorically roll up their sleeves and prepare their offspring for battle. Victory is publicly celebrated, defeat concealed beneath a secret cloud of shame. We have just undergone this gruelling experience, one that is becoming increasingly common for middle-class parents, one that is especially painful for those middle-class parents who have sacrificed their socialist principles on the altar of their children's educational interests. A conspiracy of silence surrounds the ordeal. It is time to speak out.

I am talking about the 11-plus examination, which was purportedly abolished shortly before I was due to sit it years ago (I say purportedly, because I recall doing things referred to as "tests").

On the private school circuit there is no attempt at disguise; there it is, bold as brass on the front page of examination papers for entry to secondary school. It is all that we parents of 10 and 11-year-olds talk about. The pressure to do well is so acute that children already attending elite private preparatory schools are given extra tuition at weekends. They lose football, ballet and Nintendo privileges and inhabit an austere, monastic present. To make it worse, there is no "common entrance" at this stage and each school holds its own exams. Your child may sit at least three three-hour examinations. What on earth are we doing to our children?

Oscar, my 10-year-old, had set his heart on going to Latymer Upper School in Hammersmith, West London. He wanted to go there so much that I felt instantly nervous, in the way that you do when you are convinced that wanting something too much will preclude you from getting it. "Mum," he would say, "I'd be so proud to wear Latymer's uniform." As he went into Year 6 of his small private prep school, the atmosphere changed — this was the term for hard work and intensive preparation in the art of comprehension and mathematics. Little else mattered, beloved football fell by the wayside, history and science took second place and everyone's attention was focused on entry to secondary school. Homework became serious business.

> I feel I've failed him by being unable to put things right

The interminable round of visiting schools for application ensued. Head teachers paid lip service with their avowals that they were seeking children who could contribute in many areas, not just eggheads who would gain the highest scores. At Latymer, when we saw the hundreds of parents inspecting the school, such words had an empty ring. With so many sitting the exam, how could they select other than on the basis of scores alone?

We applied to three schools: Latymer, St Benedict's and Ibstock Place. Oscar liked Latymer best, felt it was where he belonged. In his mind he was already wearing the uniform; playing for the football team, drawing in the art room and performing in the soon-to-be-completed arts centre. Despite our attempts to persuade him that the other schools had as much to offer, he was a "Latymer boy". His school agreed: "Don't worry. He'll get in. He's our big hope for Latymer."

As the Latymer exam neared, Oscar became increasingly anxious. We told him to do his best and not to worry. On the day, his body was taut with nerves and a desire to do well. I left him at the gates of the school as instructed and burst into tears. At 10, young for his year and not very tall, he looked too small to have to go through all this. Rumours abounded: 500 boys were sitting for 100 places, then 800 for 50 places. I spent the next three hours touching all the wood I could find, watching the clock and trying to transmit energy to Oscar. I even found myself invoking the spirit of my mother and asking her to help him. She was an academic with a brilliant mind, so this was, I reasoned, very much her sphere.

Oscar thought the exam was hard, but that he had done OK: "When I got the English paper I didn't feel like doing it, so I kicked myself and said 'you're going to do this'." So why did I have a niggling feeling that all would not be well?

Oscar had done well in his exams for St Benedict's and Ibstock Place: both invited him for interview, both offered him a place. But Latymer did not wish to interview him — his performance in the examination had been poor. There, I've said it publicly. I felt grief-stricken. How could I disappoint my son with this news?

I couldn't bear that they could reject him without having met him. I accept that this is a partisan view, but Oscar is a child whom people remember. Lively, inquisitive, humorous and charming, he has a talent for life. Academically, he can be erratic: one day he will come top of the class, the next, somewhere near the middle. It depends on whether he is concentrating. He is 10, after all. He writes poetry that displays a talent for the music and rhythm of language, and a grasp of metaphor.

I wrote to Latymer's headmaster, asking the school to interview Oscar: "If, after interview, you still feel he's not right, I will accept it." Oscar's prep school was astonished that he had been refused interview and rang Latymer exhorting it to reconsider. I know I may have too rosy a view of my son's capabilities, but his school, the people who teach and see him every day and have intimate knowledge of his academic capabilities, agreed there might have been a mistake. They said Oscar's performance on the day was not indicative of his performance in general, that he had slipped through the net and that steps must be taken to reverse this.

Latymer agreed to look again at his exam papers and consider his school report — then declined again to interview him. It seems it was selecting the boys with the highest scores and that the school report means little. Do schools now, in their fight to win our business and be top of the league table, wish to turn out only stockbrokers and accountants? Is there no longer room for poets, actors, writers, footballers and dreamers?

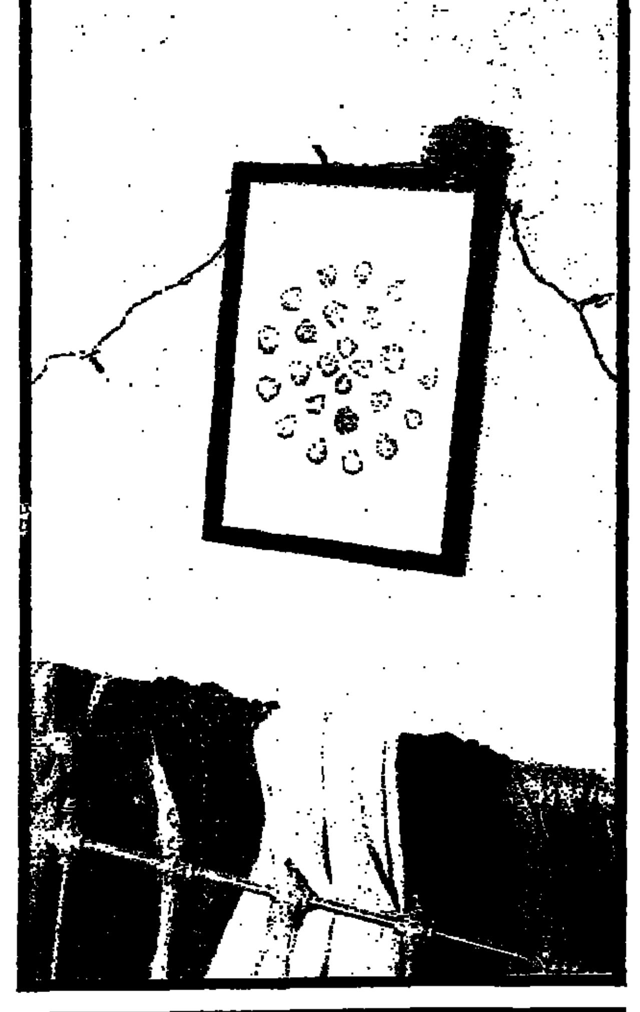
On hearing he was not to be interviewed, Oscar sobbed on my shoulder saying "I failed, I hate myself". Surely this is not good for a 10-year-old. Whatever my assurances that the school is the loser, Oscar feels he has failed something big. He will go to St Benedict's. It has a good record for pastoral care and may prove a better place for him. It offers an "old-fashioned" education. Maybe it is for the best; perhaps Latymer would not have been right for him. But I fear that in some indefinable way, Oscar is being denied something that should by rights be his.

Should one exam on one January day decide a child's educational fate? Shouldn't schools put as much importance on reports from the children's schools? Shouldn't parents be able to discuss matters with a school when they feel things have gone wrong?

We must look at what is happening to our children; something is seriously awry. Oscar is one of thousands who have undergone the 11-plus ordeal this year and, doubtless, one of thousands who has had to swallow the bitter pill of rejection so early in life. For thousands of others there is no choice; they must go wherever they can and get whatever education they can. Utopian though it may seem, I feel that if we were all to send our children to local state schools, the situation would be better. Meanwhile, I will always worry that Oscar may have missed an important opportunity, and that I have failed him by being unable to put things right.

● *The author is the editor of BBC1's* Inside Story. *Oscar has given permission for this article to be written and published.*

My home is a canvas:









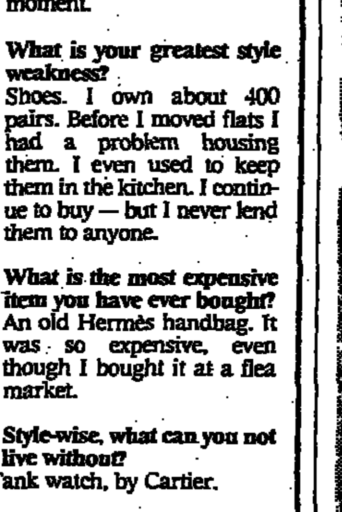




Matthew Williamson at home, where rococo meets Ibiza
Top and bottom left: bedroom colours are calm or intense
Above right: the autumn/winter collection at A la Mode, Browns, Harvey Nichols and Joseph
Left: the studio's eclectic mêlée
Above: a scrap of fuchsia silk inspired the colour of the walls
Right: memories of Rajasthan

STYLE FILE

CAMILLE MICELI
Global head of PR for Louis Vuitton



Describe your personal style.
A simplified version of the chic Parisienne look.

Do you change your style according to the season?
In summer I buy cheaper clothes; in winter, when fabrics are more important, I buy more luxurious clothes, such as cashmere.

Where do you like to shop?
I buy everywhere. Small street stalls in New York, Joseph for essentials, eclectic shops in the Marais in Paris, which don't just sell clothes but accessories for the home, and an Indian shop on Rue de l'Université.

Who is your favourite designer?
I don't have a favourite, I am interested rather in what they do. I like the way Azzedine Alaïa works, the intelligence of Lagerfeld's clothes, the way Marc Jacobs thinks so American and translates this into fashion, and anything that Gaultier is doing at the moment.

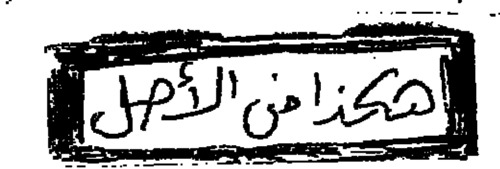
What is your greatest style weakness?
Shoes. I own about 400 pairs. Before I moved flats I had a problem housing them. I even used to keep them in the kitchen. I continue to buy — but I never lend them to anyone.

What is the most expensive item you have ever bought?
An old Hermès handbag. It was so expensive, even though I bought it at a flea market.

Style-wise, what can you not live without?
My American Tank watch, by Cartier.

Whose style do you most admire?
Amanda [Lady] Harlech's.

What is your style motto?
When depressed, always go shopping.



I'm not afraid of colour



Matthew Williamson draws inspiration for his clothes from the way he decorates his flat. Photographs by **Ryan Sullivan**

You can tell a lot about a designer's state of mind by the scope of his references. The Borgias, rape, atomic fallout, Pocahontas meets Henry VIII — all recent inspirations for some of our finest creative imaginations — tend to suggest a certain amount of emotional disturbance. Either that or a keen eye towards publicity.

Then there are the collections that try desperately to hint that their designers lead lives of fabulous depravity (these are the ones that use dead flies and cocaine as accessories). Lastly there are those that come clean and admit that the designer's main pastime is forging a cosy relationship with his home (not very debauched, this, but infinitely easier on the eye).

Matthew Williamson's most recent show, a highlight of London Fashion Week, was one of these, with a little of the travelogue thrown in. He spent the new year in Rajasthan, at the Neemrena Fort Palace Hotel, a crumbling, traditional pile with themed rooms. The one he stayed in, Moon Palace, was painted from floorboard to rafter in a soft, almost lilac white, with creamy white upholstery embroidered with small mirrors. White is not a colour normally associated with Williamson, fuchsia and hot orange being more his spectrum. So he went shopping in the bazaar for cheap sari silks, which (in a spot of instant interior redecorating popular among fashion folk and now known as "doing a Kate Moss") he then draped over the lights. The effect — neon peach walls and little dots of colour dappling the walls and ceilings — was so mesmerising that Day-Glo became the starting point for his autumn collection, which he christened Glomad. It also became the *raison d'être* behind a new look for his studio flat.

Williamson is an old hand at reinventing his home; he started tinkering with the fixtures and fittings when he was a teenager living with his parents in Manchester and continues to do so with a frequency and enthusiasm that would cheer every interiors magazine editor in the land. This is the man who had fashion connoisseurs cooing so admiringly over the beaded chandeliers that used to hang in his old kitchen that he was tempted to market them, until he realised that they took 100 hours to make. He still cannot resist running up the occasional mosaic dining table. "My home changes every time I do a collection," he says. "I end up using it as a canvas to experiment with ideas for the show."

Chez Glomad began taking shape on his return from Rajasthan, when he invested in some luminous green paint that he used to transform a pair of Louis Quinze-esque chairs that had been upholstered with flock velvet brocade and discovered in Camden Market. The iron bedstead, a Portobello Road find, was painted fluorescent pink.

Flea markets are pretty upscale for Williamson. In the fashionable design idiom of our times he trawls everywhere from the gloriously staid (an exotic, Chinese-looking lacquered table from John Lewis) and the borderline naff (a wicker chest of drawers, painted mint green, from The Pier) to Canal Street in Manhattan for a flashing Indian goddess, and that popular shopping drag, the Atlas Mountains, for a sequined hessian rug. In other words, have passport, will indulge in retail therapy.



Other treasures were dragged home from skips (an elegant, spindly-legged sofa), Mexican street hawkers (the string of plastic rose lights that scramble across the ice-blue wall in the bedroom area) and friends (an old gold and satin, hand-painted Chinese-style wall-hanging, based on one in Brighton Pavilion, that was discovered in Ibiza and given to him by Jade Jagger).

Kitsch mingles with colonial. Morocco pitches up along the way and faux 18th century gets a look-in, too, and somehow they all live happily ever after. He calls the current mêlée "rococo meets Ibiza" and insists — in the way that gifted interior guerrillas do — that anyone can achieve this haphazard harmony. We cannot, of course, which is why most of us were so thrilled when minimalism came along and rescued us from the hell of having to worry about whether matching curtains and sofas were U, non-U or a sign of nascent obsessive-compulsive disorder, but it is nice of him to say so.

There is much to inspire about Williamson's home, not least the way in which he has managed to cram three distinct living spaces — for sleeping, eating and relaxing — into a windowless room roughly 20ft by 30ft that is tagged on to the back of his basement work studios in Clerkenwell, East London. All of it on a shoestring. Much of this is achieved with a bravura, reckless take on colour. The present scheme was an attempt to mix heat with icy cold — the pink walls were achieved after Williamson went to the Notting Hill paint specialists John Oliver, clutching a scrap of fuchsia silk; the pale, minty blue is from Sanderson — and looks beautiful.

"The reason it works," he says, "is because I'm not frightened. A lot of people are terrified of colour because often the results are not quite what they expected. But if you don't have too strong a preconception, it's fine." He claims to have had no scarring experience with his colours, although that may be because he tends to change them every six months. "One Moroccan blue left us with a headache but it looked good. The secret is to establish what a room is for. Its function dictates the colour: warm in a sitting room, intense or calming in a bedroom."

A fortnight before his show Williamson announced: "Once you have seen the flat, the collection will make sense." He was right: the neon colours and rococo and nomadic allusions were scattered throughout. This synergy between clothing and decor is increasingly part of the design landscape. Trends in the home are being promulgated with the same speed as catwalk diktats, with more and more designers issuing both.

As soon as the business infrastructure is in place Williamson hopes to launch a home collection. The ideas are already there. "It won't be a beige tablecloth," he says firmly, "unless it's a silk-linen one trimmed with velvet and dingly-dangly beads. There's so much stuff available for the house now, but a lot of it has none of the attention to detail or the richness that I put into my clothes. There are women out there wearing my embroidered skirts who would love to have something like that hanging on their walls."

He is right — and very pretty it will be. The days of fretting over whether different bits of furniture go together will seem halcyon and simple compared with working out whether your sofa empathises with your kitten heels.

Forget the films, did my hair win an Oscar?



WHILE the non-winners come to terms with an Oscar-less loo this morning, the real heroes of the event have yet to assess the fruits of their labours.

I refer to the armies of stylists and hairdressers who have made the event their own and who will spend the next year scanning the press for evidence of their brilliant handiwork. No Hollywood icon can put out the milk these days without an entourage of image enhancers wielding powder puffs and hair extensions in their direction. The celebrity stylist has been shopping for months and some will have gone to dastardly lengths to secure the right frock. Two years ago one stylist called in all Versace's glitziest numbers and hung on to them until Oscar night was safely out of the way.

Money rarely changes hands, although according to American *Vogue*, dry-cleaning a beaded Oscar gown in Hollywood can cost upwards of $1,000. Nominees are drenched in presents — from the hotels' personalised chocolate sculptures to the world's beauty experts who fly into the LA smog ready to enhance everything from earlobes to toe cuticles. John Barrett, the New York-based star coiffeur, jetted to Bel-Air at the weekend to tend Dame Judi Dench (up for *Shakespeare in Love*), Rachel Griffiths (*Hilary and Jackie*), the costume designer Sandy Powell (*Elizabeth*), and two powerful mavens from *Vanity Fair*.

More frazzling is working out which client gets which hour-long slot. First appointment goes to the lowest in the pecking order, who must then spend eight hours in full make-up and copious hairpieces waiting for the thing to start. Barrett was still revising his running order on Thursday night, and I got the feeling that much depended on his clients' behaviour. Some had been in discussion with him for weeks, others, such as Dame Judi, have hair so short that "all they require is for me to put my head round the hotel room door and do a benediction. I take my scissors in case a trim is required, but it's about giving them confidence."

Then there's the dress to consider; he gets to voice his opinion (that's hairdressers for you). "But in the end, what they wear is in the lap of the gods," he says. "To my knowledge, before Cate Blanchett stepped out on that red carpet in front of the Dorothy Chandler pavilion last night, at least five designers were certain they were dressing her."

■ IT IS a truism that today the question most frequently asked of fashion editors is not whether Charles Worth was a greater couturier than Edward Molyneux, but "where can I get a cheap pashmina?"

Allowing for the oxymoron, here it is: from today until next Sunday, Sophia Swire, one of the first importers of pashminas to Britain, will be selling her wraps from £149 at the Cellar Bar, in the Icon Restaurant, 21 Elystan Street, Chelsea, London SW3. Also taking part are Anna Bevan, the jeweller, and Caroline Hickman, the Central St Martins-trained milliner, whose flower "twists", from £70, are a pretty alternative to hats for weddings and christenings. The £10 admission fee will be donated to the NSPCC.

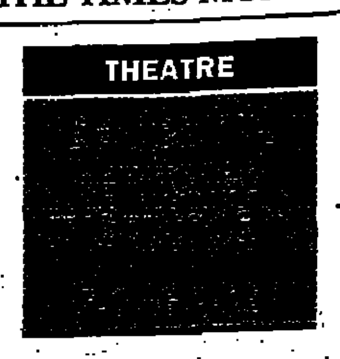


MUSIC

Celebrating the Eighties with Birtwistle

THIS PAGE

THE TIMES ARTS





OPERA: **Rodney Milnes** reviews English National Opera's new show, while (right) **Richard Morrison** reveals its plans



DONALD COOPER

Mephistopheles (Alastair Miles) and the dying Faust (David Rendall) in ENO's worthy but doomed staging of Boito's lightweight take on Goethe

Sympathy for this Devil

Mephistopheles
Coliseum

The story so far. A year ago the Royal Opera and Bernard Haitink gave a couple of superlative concert performances of Boito's *Mefistofele* which, despite their quality, revealed why the piece hadn't been staged here for more than 40 years. That, we felt with a sigh of relief, was that for another generation, and our minds boggled when English National Opera announced a new production. The only vaguely interesting aspect of last Thursday's first night was that the work's inadequacy should have been even more exposed in staged performance than in concert form.

Not to mince words, *Mephistopheles* is twaddle. Boito's attempt to encapsulate the whole of Goethe's *Faust* in two hours of music is doomed on that account alone: the dramaturgy is hopelessly jerky; we never know who Faust or Margareta are — they are just lay figures who sing a bit — and it's hard to discern any reason for the *Walpurgisnacht* scene or the Classical Sabbath being there at all.

Add to this the problem of there being no music to speak of, unless forever repeating a phrase a semitone higher and hoping for the best counts as composition. The fragmentary, broken-backed tunes, when they come, are of quite astonishing banality. By comparison, Gounod's much despised little *opéra comique* is a work of blazing genius.

So why is *Mefistofele* ever done? Well, Boito's libretto employs colourful syntax, hardly matched in Carlos Wagner's serviceable new translation; it shows off any company's chorus, and the title role is a gift for a good, hammy bass. Good basses are normally restricted to singing heavy fathers, high priests and introspective despots; they must love being allowed to gambol about a bit. Alastair Miles is a very good bass indeed; he sang pungently and beautifully, and gambolled discreetly. David Rendall (Faust) was on top form, sounding happier and more heroic the higher he went, and Susan Patterson (Margareta) fielded thrilling tone and excellently clear diction. Leigh Melrose and Christine Rice filled the minor roles efficiently, and the chorus was superb.

Ian Judge, together with his set and costume designers John Gunter and Tim Goodchild, deserves some sort of medal for keeping us all awake. This is a *romp*: real devils with horns and tails, cherubim throwing paper darts, choirs of angels doing a quick change on stage into scarlet punks. We get the old bellringing joke, and Mephisto takes over the conducting just before the interval — tough on Oliver von Dohnányi, who does what he can with the empty score.

There's a slight danger in allowing Miles to mime extreme boredom during some of the worst love music and to read a magazine at the Classical Sabbath (could that privilege please be extended to the audience?), and if you send the Heavenly Host up skyhigh at the beginning, then doesn't the end seem even emptier than it already is? Minor quibbles: the piece doesn't deserve serious staging.

Fighting talk at the Coliseum

Announcing 18 new shows, a big premiere and the *Ring*, ENO is resolved not to be second best

In London's opera world the gloves are off. The Royal Opera is fighting fit again. Its grant has been boosted. Its new American boss oozes optimism. The £213 million redevelopment has garnered good reviews, and glamorous Antonio Pappano is signed up as music director. Reduced ticket prices and tasty dishes have been announced for the December reopening. And Covent Garden has even managed an unprecedented three-month period in which it has managed to outrage almost nobody.

But that has only brought out the fighting spirit down the road at the Coliseum. English National Opera has a crumbling theatre and financial hardships. But on Friday its general director Nicholas Payne — himself a Covent Garden escapee — threw down the gauntlet by announcing an extraordinarily bold programme.

"I genuinely wish all the best to my old mates in their spanking new building," says Payne, without sounding unduly genuine. "But I want to stress that ENO is putting on the most creative programme of opera to the largest audiences in the country: 86 per cent capacity in one of London's biggest theatres. We are offering 18 new stagings in 15 months. No opera house in the world is being as productive as that."

In fact Payne has reserved his masterstroke for autumn 2000, the very moment when the Royal Opera will be launching its first full season. That is when ENO will pay a remarkable homage to "400 years of Italian opera", staging no fewer than ten new productions of Italian opera, from Monteverdi to Dallapiccola, and perhaps even a new work. "Of course this is a statement," Payne admits. "It's saying: 'hey, look at us, we're staging far more interesting stuff than that lot up the road'. But I also think it's a brilliant way to celebrate the millennium."

But how will the creaky old Coliseum cope with this quick succession of new stagings, each by a different director? The trick is that one designer mastermind, Stefanos Lazaridis, will ensure that sets and lighting for each opera are distinctive without being logistically disruptive.

"When I first talked to him," Payne says, "it was a depressing three hours, at the end of which he told me what a lousy idea it was. A week later he phoned me and said 'that crazy idea of yours, I haven't been able to sleep for thinking about it'." Lazaridis will make the sets "interlock", so reducing changeover time between shows. "It's what Peter Hall did at the Old Vic," says Payne. "You simply say 'no changeover more than an hour and a half'."

Payne: no other opera house is so creative

That's all 18 months away. But ENO's 1999-2000 season is not without thrills. Payne has talked the hot American director Peter Sellars into making his ENO debut with *Nixon in China*, the first time that John Adams's stunning piece of modern mythology will have been staged in London. "He won't replicate exactly what he did with *Nixon* before, but I wouldn't be surprised to see an airplane land on the Coliseum stage," Payne says.

Even newer will be *The Silver Tassie*, the premiere of Mark Anthony Turnage's epic operatic version of O'Casey's First World War classic. Even now, 11 months before first night, the work is being workshopped at ENO's Studio. That allows performers to become familiar with Turnage's sounds, and the composer to change things that don't work. "I hope we will have a better opera as a result," Payne says. "It depresses me to think that at a time when the ENO management was very supportive of new opera, so many unrevivable things were premiered here. We hope the studio process will change that."

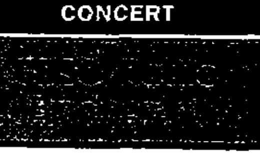
Elsewhere there will be two excursions into non-operatic religious works. Marking the 250th anniversary of Bach's death, his *St John Passion* will be staged by Deborah Warner at Easter next year. Then Phyllida Lloyd will stage Verdi's Requiem to end the Italian season. Why? "Because the millennium is in the widest sense a religious festival — and, for many people, going to the opera is a kind of spiritual pilgrimage," Payne says. "We are saying: forget the normal barriers of opera; these are great dramatic pieces, and great stories."

What of later plans? Payne is expansive and ever hopeful. He talks of collaborating with the National Theatre on a musical requiring big orchestra, singers and actors. "The most popular thing I did in ten years at Opera North was *Show Boat* in collaboration with the RSC," he admits cheerfully.

But he also has a dream of mounting a new ENO *Ring* cycle, conducted by the company's vibrant music director Paul Daniel. They will limber up with concert performances from 2001, then stage it in 2003. Does ENO have enough big vocal guns for Wagner's marathon challenge? "On a long train journey a few weeks ago I took out a piece of paper and cast every role from singers either in the company or working regularly with us," Payne claims. The Royal Opera clearly has no monopoly on positive thinking.

Sticky earth

CONCERT



Having experienced *The Triumph of Time* as an icon of the 1970s in the *Towards the Millennium* series last year, the Birmingham audience seemed reluctant to follow Harrison Birtwistle into the 1980s. Certainly, Symphony Hall was far from sold on the opportunity to hear *Earth Dances*. Staying away, however, is probably better than wriggling, shuffling and coughing through the first half of the concert in uncomfortable anticipation of the second.

It is true that *Earth Dances* is not easy listening. Nor is *The Triumph of Time*. But the earlier work does have a very evident strength of purpose, an underlying sense of direction, an inevitability that is difficult to detect in the later one. *Earth Dances* is a score that heaves and shudders for nearly 40 minutes, going round in circles or striking off at tangents without actually getting anywhere and presenting such a consistently stony surface that it offers little inducement to follow it.

Indeed, for all Simon Rattle's advocacy and all the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra's professional determination to make the best of the situation, it is a work that shakes one's faith in Birtwistle's inspiration at that stage in his development.

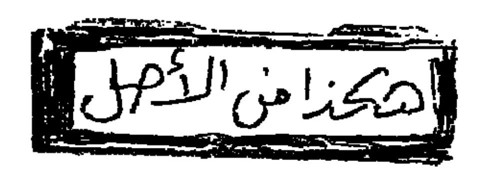
The problem with *Earth Dances* was all the more acute in that it was preceded by Sofia Gubaidulina's Violin Concerto, *Offertorium*, which is certainly and unmistakably inspired. It is true that, although it begins rather than ends with Bach, it owes much to Berg, whose Violin Concerto is a persistent background presence.

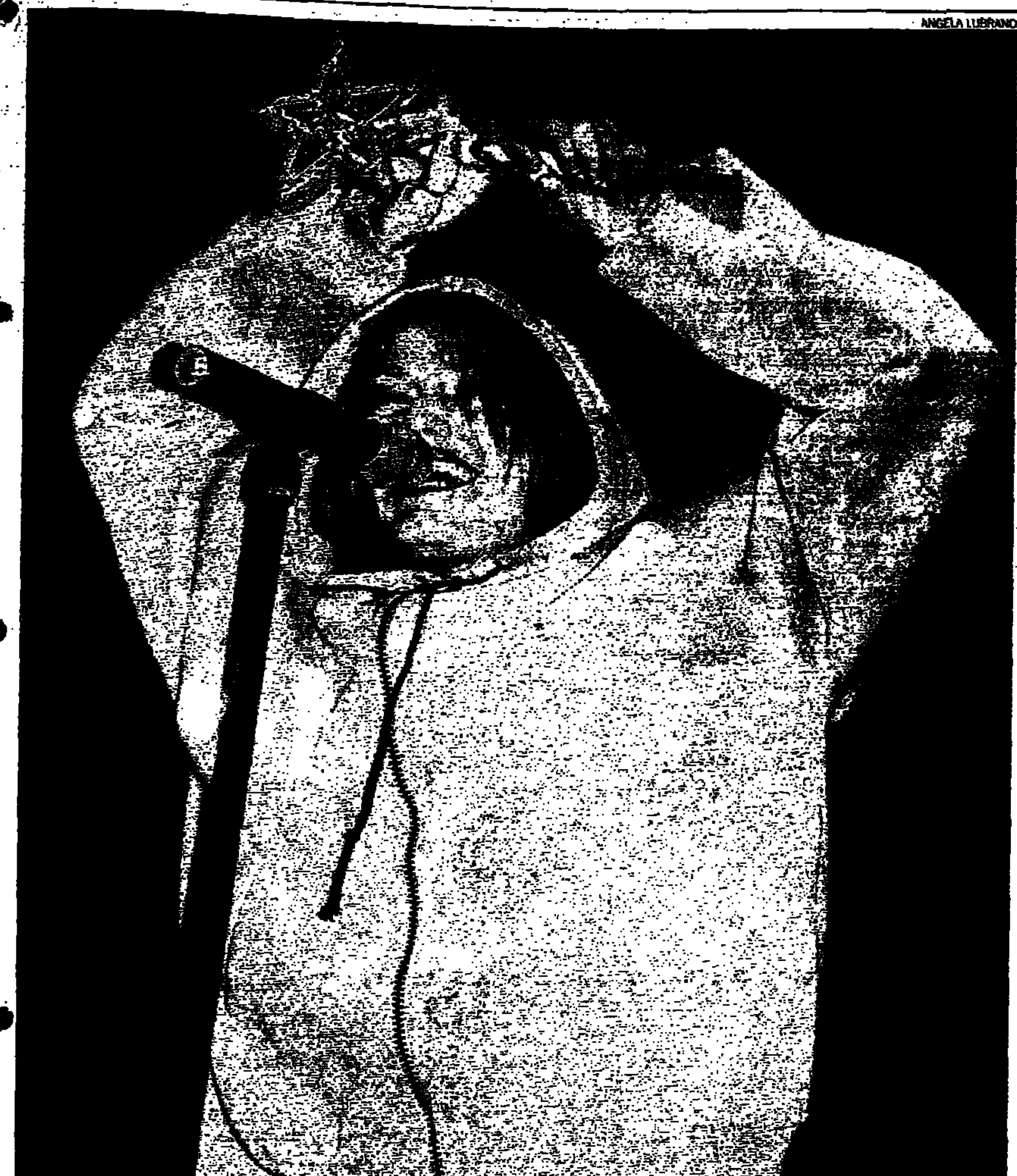
But whatever the faults of *Offertorium*, the long outpouring of solo melody in the last movement must be one of the most lyrically effective episodes the 1980s have to offer. Had Kennedy been there to perform it, as originally scheduled, the audience might have been quieter, but one could scarcely have asked more of Vadim Repin than he actually gave in terms of commitment and sustained beauty of sound under long-term emotional and technical pressure.

Kurtag's *Grabstein fur Stephan* was a brilliantly chosen opener for the concert. It offers little in the way of comfort, but it clears conventional modes of listening and thinking out of the way in no more than a few minutes.

GERALD LARNER







ANGELA LUBRANO

Shades of Petula Clark: the charismatic Cerys Matthews leads Catatonia in concert at the Brixton Academy in London

A surprising change of direction

POP

Catatonia
Brixton Academy

It seems an age has passed since Catatonia released their second album, *International Velvet*, although it was little more than a year ago. At that point Finley Quaye had just triumphed over Robbie Williams at the Brits, the Corrs were struggling to get their records played on the radio and the Welsh group fronted by the charismatic Cerys Matthews were still lumped in with second-division Britpop bands such as Sleeper and Echobelly.

International Velvet turned Catatonia into a major attraction, and with a third album, *Equally Cursed And Blessed*, due in the shops next month, they are now striving for the sort of mainstream success that will put them on a par with the biggest household names in the land.

Musically, their strategy for achieving this involves playing to their pop melody strengths while toning down the guitar attack; and it was noticeable at their show how many of the new songs were delivered in a gentle, wistfully romantic vein that was some way removed from the band's brash, indie-rock origins.

Matthews has complained of feeling at times "like Robbie Williams's phoney niece", but as she steered the band through the mellifluous arrangements and easy-listening melodies of *Dead From The Waist Down*, *She's A Millionaire* and *Valerian*, she sounded more like a distant, eccentric relation of Petula Clark. These were good songs, particularly *Londinium* which offered a marvellously melancholy take on the speedy lifestyle which the capital imposes on insider and outsider alike.

But the crowd, who were evidently more in the mood for a Friday night singalong and a bit of a bop, seemed rather nonplussed, and for a while the sound of the band was competing on roughly equal terms with that of the chatting at the back.

The tide was emphatically turned by a rousing version of *International Velvet*, in which the chorus — "Every day when I wake up/I thank the Lord I'm Welsh" — was enthusiastically, if implausibly endorsed by the voices of the great majority of the Brixton audience. From there, it was a straightforward canter towards the home straight with brisk versions of *Road Rage*, *Sweet Catatonia* and the anthemic *Strange Glue* working their alchemy with dependable charm.

While the rest of the group provided an able musical accompaniment, their listless stage presence was distinctly uninvolving. Rarely lit, even when singing backing harmonies, and glugging on cans of beer while picking out one-note keyboard lines, they could have been in a rehearsal room, and seemed to have lost the will to claim any attention for themselves. Whatever their contributions to the writing and recording of the songs, the entertainment value of the show thus depended to a burdensome extent on Matthews.

Fortunately, she was up to the task. Dressed in a tight-fitting white top and a flowing, diaphanous red skirt, she performed an intimate dance with the spotlight throughout, combining her formidable vocal prowess with an easy, earthy appeal.

A string of encores produced another quiet, new song, *Bulimic Beats*, this one with a courtly, Eastern frisson, followed by the show-stopping *Mulder And Scully*, an intriguing, if slightly uneasy contrast in tone and tempo which typified the show as a whole.

DAVID SINCLAIR

LONDON THEATRE: The menace of a monster Heathrow on stage. Plus, right, well-acted confusion from Hungary

Supersonic future

As I walked towards the Orange Tree, plane after plane was passing overhead en route to Heathrow: as I walked away two hours later the sky was just as close to gridlock. Imagine, then, what it will be like to live in Richmond if and when Terminal 5 is built. Go further, as Jane Coles does in her new play, and imagine that it is the next century and the area has sprouted so many runways, arrival and departure halls, and underground shopping malls that Heathrow has become a vast city and London an enormous airport. What sort of effect will that have on the populace?

Well, one of Coles's four characters commits suicide, two are serious head-cases, and the fourth is an airport apparatchik who appears to spend her days sending Somalis back to Africa to be killed. The trouble is that it is not only they who are being damaged by the ceaseless noise, pollution and stress. Both the play, and Dominic Hill's production totter and reel and generally give the impression of



having been bashed on the head by a falling 747. And that is a pity, for, unlike the novel, British drama seldom ventures out of the past and present into imaginative speculation and good paranoid futurism.

The problem is not the world that Coles postulates. No fan of sci-fi will quarrel with her picture of a planet in worse shape than its own, newly colonised Moon. Your bank account clearly needs to be well in credit if you are to afford the health insurance, the legal fees, the pills and the weapons to cope with the violent gangs of marauding children, the cost of being falsely accused of crimes, the misery and, above all, the ear-splintering hubbub when you leave your flat or open your quadruple-glazing.

No, the trouble with the play, apart from some gratuitously precious, fake-poetic dialogue, is that it is hard to get a mental or moral purchase on its characters or care about their respective fates. Jeremy Crutchley's sour Cody, whose connection with the world consists mainly of photographing passing planes from his balcony, is clearly out of love with the new century. But what motivates his wife, Amanda Royle's Leanne, when she gives him a "present" in the form of a trainee air hostess called Tara? And what are we meant to make of Lucy Tregear's Susan, who doubles her job as an immigration officer with that of a social worker, keeping an eye on Cody?

Truth to tell, only one of these people comes across clearly and vividly; and that is Tara, who anyway behaves like a robot. As played by Sarah Tansey, she is a brainwashed ninny, an overgrown infant who hides her insecurity behind big smiles, verbal gush and do-it-yourself Christianity. There is an amusing scene in which, using her jumbo-jet skills, she overpowers Cody, and another in which



Close contact: Jeremy Crutchley and Lucy Tregear

she cheerfully simulates a plane crash. But is her callow delight in a "shining new century" that is the very opposite sufficient to sustain a scattered, disorientating evening? Not really.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Meaning lost in the wash

Cleaning
Southwark Playhouse

When a baffling play is badly acted the result can be swept down the oubliette and there's an end to it. But what about the baffling play well acted, the problem presented by this 1977 work by the Hungarian writer Péter Nádas?

Born in 1942, Jewish but christened, his work frequently banned until Hungary's tyranny eased, by which time he was almost 40, Nádas is surely writing of something beyond what appears to be going on. Zsuzsa, a servant, is dusting an empty room; Jóska, a young rapscallion, is eyeing her bottom; Klára, her matronly employer, is dithering around them, allowing herself to be insulted, fondly indulging the lad in his foul talk and lustful ambitions.

He kicks a bucket of water over the floorboards but nobody minds, and soon he is helping Zsuzsa polish the glass doors. These open from one side of the room — set on a traverse stage — and allow a glimpse of the furniture piled up there and covered with dustsheets. On the opposite wall hangs a large photo of Klára's dead husband, emerging from a river.

For a while the information gleaned from their reminiscences holds together and could well be moving us somewhere. As Klára, Jeanne Hepple (good to see her again) persuades us that her scatter-brained non sequiturs must connect at some undisclosed catastrophe or crime; Elizabeth Hopley (Zsuzsa), bold, brusque and watchful, reveals theories of servitude that hint at a hidden purpose; Joseph Traynor, in almost his first stage work, convinces us that the sensual bolshiness and fits of obedience naturally cohabit within the same peasant skin.

When Klára confesses that she too spent some time in service, and joins the others in the polishing, significant revelations look likely to arrive any moment. We gather that she proposes to leave her possessions to the boy, or to the girl, but then that she has sold them all already. He fancies the girl but is prepared to fancy the woman. Zsuzsa speaks of her love for a succession of old men.

And then they scrub the floor. I did not note what time they started this but they were still at work 90 minutes after the play began. Starting at the foot of the photograph and moving backwards to the glass doors, imparting fragments of stories that never impinge upon the lives of the other two — telling the truth? Spinning daydreams? Who can say? I assume they are cleaning themselves of the past, although nothing in their talk confirms this. If the translation by János Bruck, who also directs, and Nicholas Le Prevost is faithful to the original, it is Nádas himself who chooses to leave us baffled. Never more so than when the dead husband emerges from the photograph and dries himself between the women, both of whom are now dead.

JEREMY KINGSTON

This week in THE TIMES



■ THEATRE

Convert to evil: Charles Dance stars in C.P. Taylor's *Good* at the Donmar
OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



■ VISUAL ART

Richard Deacon's sculpture exhibition gets into gear at the Tate, Liverpool
OPEN NOW
REVIEW: Wednesday



■ MUSIC

Pianist Martha Argerich joins the COE for a concert at the Barbican
CONCERT: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday

■ FILM

Ian McKellen portrays *Frankenstein* director James Whale in *Gods and Monsters*
RELEASED: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday

PLUS: Handel's *Lotario* is staged at the Royal College of Music, Tuesday

It's a fine old mess — but no new Reich

Britain could find a new role after a week of European high farce

Eurosceptics can sleep securely in their beds. Sub-editors at the *Daily Mail* and *The Sun* can put away their Euro-bashing headlines. We are not about to be faced by an over-mighty Germany or by a European superstate. The reality is the opposite — confusion, uncertainty, weak leadership and introspection. The grand European vision of the Helmut Kohl era has been replaced by the tentative pragmatism of Gerhard Schröder.

The closer you get to German politicians — as I have just done during the annual Königswinter conference — the cloudier the picture becomes. Oskar Lafontaine's self-destruction has given Herr Schröder a second chance. But his position is very different from that of Tony Blair. The Social Democratic Party is still nearer to old rather than new Labour at the grass roots. While Herr Schrö-der should be approved as party chairman-leader in three weeks, he will find it hard to impose his *Neue Mitte*-Third Way approach. The coalition itself also remains unstable.

The direction of policy post-Lafontaine also remains unclear. The former Finance Minister fell both because he was never comfortable with the job and because he faced growing opposition from German business and in the rest of Europe. But a strategy for deregulation and structural *reform has yet to be* developed.

In Europe also, the German hand is uncertain. Its willingness to bear sacrifices and pay costs in the name of Europe (or rather French farmers) is fast disappearing as national and taxpayer interests assert themselves.

Herr Schröder wants to reduce Germany's large net contribution to the European budget. This depends on reforming the budget and the common agricultural policy to permit enlargement without raising total spending. While farm ministers have agreed sizeable cuts in farm prices, the resulting compensation in cash to farmers would cost more. France has so far successfully resisted proposals for national governments to take up or co-finance part of this bill. And there is no agreement on a scheme for phasing out such payments over time, known to CAP buffs as degressivity.

Consquently, the package to be discussed by heads of government in Berlin this week is an unsatisfactory mess. There is not the political will to push through radical reform, but, unlike the 1980s, there is no real desire for an increase in the overall budget. *The likelihood is therefore that* enlargement to the East will be delayed by three or four years to 2006.

Similarly, proposals for closer integration are also likely to be pushed back. The launch of the euro will lead to closer co-ordination of economic policies, but little more. Admittedly, Germany is keen to eliminate tax loopholes, and the position of the eurobond market in London has not yet been safeguarded, but there are no serious proposals for general tax harmonisation.

The spectre of a European superstate can be left to the lurid fantasies of Bernard Connolly. Indeed, the latest furore over the European Commission will further limit grandiose ambitions. There *will now, quite rightly*, be a big push for reorganisation and strengthening safeguards against fraud. There are doubts about how deep the changes will be, and about how tough Romano Prodi might be as a reforming President, but the Commission has been humbled

These developments are mixed news for the Blair Government. The likely failure to agree any more than an interim budget deal is a setback. But it has also eased immediate pressures for Britain to renegotiate its rebate. Sceptics should be reassured that no one in the Government, including the most pro-European, is willing to put the rebate on the table. While it is a bit far-fetched to present this as a principled stand, Britain's net contributions do remain disproportionate to our relative wealth. Underlying this is *the fear that any concession* will be presented by the Tories and the sceptic press as "selling out Britain", even though the sums might be small.

British policymakers also see cracks in the Franco-German relationship which has driven European developments for nearly half a century. *Tensions in the* farm talks have created doubts in Paris. There is also not the personal closeness or automatic identity of interest of the Schmidt-Giscard or the Kohl-Mitterrand years.

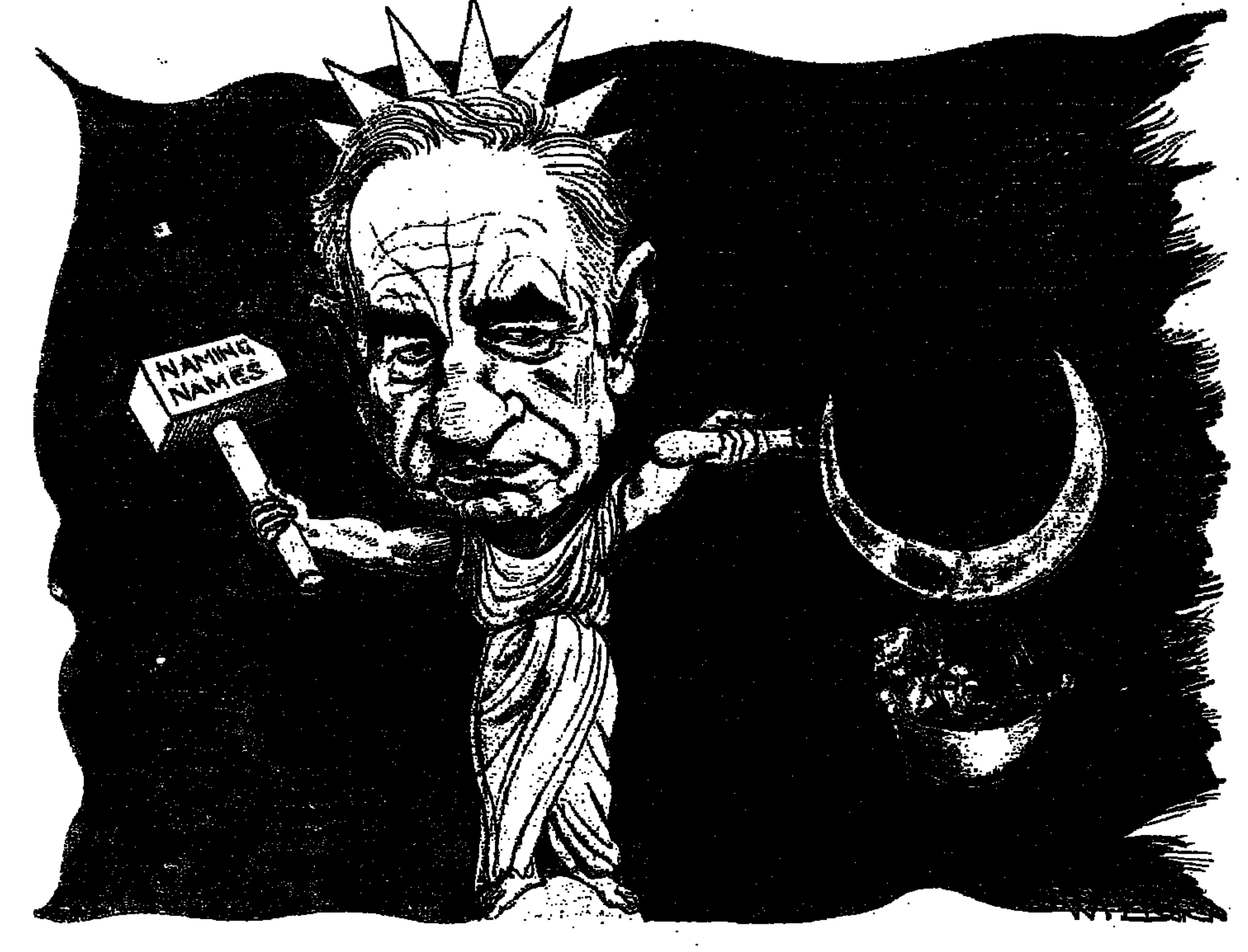
Peter Riddell

Consequently, *while publicly de*nying any intention of weakening the Franco-German axis, the British Government is keenly building up links with France on European defence (after the St Malo declaration of late 1998) and on economic reform with Germany (to be reflected in a Blair-Schröder statement *in about a month*).

British-German relations are undoubtedly closer, especially post-Lafontaine, than for a very long time. Cynics will argue that the Foreign Office is playing its favourite, and ultimately futile, game of trying to play off Paris and Bonn, since at the end of the day France's relationship with Germany *always takes* precedence over other links.

There is, however, at least an opportunity for Britain, if not to take a "lead" in the clichéd way, which is impossible outside the euro, to play a more positive and influential role. Mr Blair has shown this in his response to the Commission debacle. Gordon Brown *has a similar chance*, especially if he could learn to treat his fellow finance ministers more as partners than opponents. The dramas in Europe of the past fortnight — and with more dangerous ones to come soon in Kosovo — could mark a turning point, not in fulfilment of the sceptics' fears and hopes but towards a Europe where Britain is at last at home.

peter.riddell@the-times.co.uk



A choice of two evils

Elia Kazan's betrayal of his friends was the act of a man caught in the moral dilemma of his times

Early in 1956, Tennessee Williams wrote a letter to the young Ken Tynan, who was already a leading international theatre critic. He commented on the work of Elia Kazan, who had produced most of his plays on Broadway. "We just don't have another director over here with his way of bringing a script to violent, brilliant life."

Ken himself had been a great admirer of Kazan: in 1950 he thought that his production of Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman* was "the best he had seen since the War", but he later came to feel, as is quoted in Kathleen Tynan's *Life*, that Kazan had "come to worship energy for its own sake".

We cannot recapture Elia Kazan's work as a stage director, but he also made important films, including *East of Eden* and *A Streetcar Named Desire*. He was given an honorary lifetime Oscar last night — subject to any protests that may have been made after this article went to press. One of his films is among the greatest ever made, up there with *Citizen Kane*. That is *On the Waterfront* and in it Kazan directed the best performance Marlon Brando ever gave.

On the Waterfront was made in 1954; it is a tough, social-realistic film about life on the docks. Kazan has been a lifelong liberal; he is a man of the Left. The film is also a moral polemic. The argument is that there is a duty to oppose evil, in this case gangsters with union links, even if it means betraying friends, relations or personal obligations.

The date of the film is significant. *In 1952 Elia Kazan appeared before* the House of Representatives Committee on Un-American Activities. There he not only stated that he had once been a member of the American Communist Party but also named eight other people who to his knowledge had also been members. That damaged and may have ruined their careers. *On the Waterfront* is Elia Kazan's answer to E.M. *Forster's observation that, if* faced with the choice between betraying his friend and betraying his country, he hoped he would have the courage to betray his country.

I went to the *United States* on several visits in the 1950s. I even corresponded with Senator Joe McCarthy's office, though for the innocent journalistic purpose of obtaining copies of his speeches. He was, in my view, a cheap demagogue and, in some of *his* dealings with the US Government, a blackmailer. The leading figures in the Un-American Activities Committee were also demagogues, though less formidable. Richard Nixon, who focused on the Hiss case, was a more serious figure. Every liberal in the United States maintained that Alger Hiss was innocent. We now know beyond doubt what the evidence showed then, that Hiss was a Soviet agent from the 1930s, comparable to Kim Philby.

In the early 1950s the Cold War had reached an early but critical stage, the communists had taken over China, Berlin had been blockaded, the atom spies had been arrested, the Korean War was being fought. The Cold War seemed quite likely to lead to a Third World War, in which nuclear weapons would be used. No one in 1950 could be sure that the Soviet Union would be contained, that communist power would not gradually erode the free world.

William Rees-Mogg

Not surprisingly, American opin*ion was extremely anxious. One of* the achievements of the Eisenhower presidency was that the line against Soviet expansion was held, and American opinion was stabilised. The situation in 1961, when Eisenhower left office, was in every way better than in 1952, when he was elected.

The Kazan dilemma was complicated by this contrast between *the reality of the Soviet threat and* the hysteria it had produced. If Kazan is to be criticised, it is not for rejecting communism, nor even for fighting communism by naming its supporters, but for naming them to a *headline*-seeking committee. Did not his evidence add to the hysteria?

I think that argument against Kazan is too delicate. It supposes that the battle for minds was one between gentle-minded left-wing scriptwriters and *sinister* demagogues who were misleading the American people. That was not the case. A few of the Hollywood victims of McCarthyism may have been wholly innocent; more were recklessly gullible; at least a few were fully aware of their Soviet commitment and its implications. The real battle of the 1950s was between American democracy and Soviet communism. The American Communist Party was on the Soviet side.

Infantile leftism is the best excuse one can make for American communists of the 1930s *and 1940s and their* contemporary and later sympathisers. One should not suppose that these fellow-travelling Hollywood scriptwriters knowingly sympathised with the KGB, Beria, the starvation of the *Ukraine*, the purges, the Nazi-Soviet pact, the Katyn massacre, the gulags, the anti-Semitism, the cult of personality, the corruption of culture and art, or the other horrors and crimes of Stalin's genocidal regime. Yet they were objectively furthering *all these causes*. Perhaps they did so with their eyes shut, though I can remember Oxford leftists at that time who would glibly talk of the need to break eggs if one was to make omelettes. By breaking eggs, they meant killing people, or putting them in camps.

The German sociologist Max Weber in *The Sociology of Religion* offers an explanation of this betray*al of human values by relatively* large numbers of people in the intellectual professions; it occurred both in America and in Europe. "The intellectual seeks in various ways . . . to endow his life with a pervasive meaning, and thus to find unity with himself, with his fellow men, and with the cosmos . . . as a consequence, there is a growing demand that the world and the total pattern of life be subject to an order that is *significant and meaningful*." *Whatever else may be said against* Stalin, no one could deny that he provided an order that was significant and meaningful. So, for that matter, did Hitler.

To Kazan, one may assume, the evil of Stalinism completely outweighed the evil of McCarthyism. He made his choice a few years after the war, but it is a characteristic wartime choice of preferring the lesser to the greater evil. In war, victory can be achieved only by attacking the enemy wherever he can be found.

The members of the American Communist Party, whether gullible, mere "useful idiots" in Lenin's phrase, or aware of what they were doing, were objectively on the side of Stalin. If Kazan saw them as a legitimate target of disclosure, was he wrong? An American constitutional writer, Walter Berns, commented on a Supreme Court judg*ment: "Free speech turns out to* mean that it is worse to suppress the advocacy of Stalinism or Hitlerism than to be ruled by Stalin or Hitler."

In continental Europe there are still some people on the Right who do not wish to speak ill of Nazism or Hitler. They have considerable political weight in Austria and some in East Germany and *France*. *Such people* scarcely exist in the democratic life of Britain or the United States, *though* there was that half-cracked candidate for Governor of Louisiana who used to give a party on Hitler's birthday.

Far larger numbers on the Left, in all these countries, do not like to speak ill of Soviet communism. They will not accept the comparison between Hitler and Stalin; they think one can *distinguish* between good genocide and bad genocide. Among the parties of the Left, far too few have ever apologised for their traditional sympathy for the Soviet Union, which was extended to *Stalin himself*. In 1945 even the British Labour Party campaigned under the slogan: "Left can speak to Left."

I feel uneasy about the people *who wanted to remain as* closet communists. Surely, by 1952, they should have realised what an evil regime they had supported, or still did support. I feel even more uneasy about people of the modern Hollywood *Left, who still think* it was wrong for Kazan to name names. They would *not* feel the same about former Nazis. Elia Kazan named people who were the American foot-soldiers of Stalinism. For him it was a *moral issue: it still is*.

comment@the-times.co.uk

'The idea that the Russians are more sexually easygoing than we are is misleading — they may be, but they pretend not to be'

It seems unfair on the unsuspecting Russian television viewer that he should be subjected to video footage such as that aired last week of the repulsively unattractive Prosecutor-General cavorting in his underpants with two prostitutes. It feels like only yesterday that *we were forced* to look at page after page of full-colour photographs of Vladimir Zhirinovsky, everybody's favourite ultra-nationalist, in his.

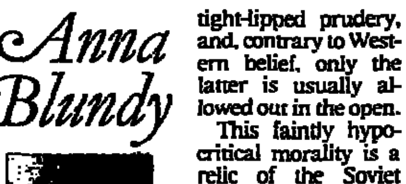
The day after the not-so-surprising revelations about the Prosecutor, the Russian newspapers went out of their way to back the portly Yuri Skuratov, even taking it upon themselves to suggest that *he should run for* President.

Now that he had proved himself to be a real all-drinking all-fornicating married man of *the type* Russia so obviously needs, he might as well pitch in with the best of them, was the line they took.

There was a kind of "good on yer" attitude abounding in the press. The country's fat old men (and there are plenty of them) were assumed to be looking on enviously and wishing they had the power and the money to do the same, and Russia's women apparently smiled on indulgently as if to say "boys will be boys". It seemed that anyone who admitted to being shocked that the man in charge of law and order in Russia would behave in such an unseemly fashion was a prude and a bigot.

English press reports set out to assure readers that Russians are *not as censorious as the inhabit*ants of the foggy Albion and that any sex scandal here can only enhance a politician's reputation. Russians, it was suggested, approve of sex more than we do. Certainly most foreigners visiting Russia leave with an impression of sexual licentiousness, and wonder at the level of personal freedom in a country so long considered by the West to be officially averse to pleasure of all kinds. As a Russian friend once told me: "That was all we ever did under communism. It was legal and free."

Anna Blundy



There was no contraception to speak of and Russian women subjected themselves to a ghastly average of three abortions each in a lifetime. But that is not to say that attitudes really *were more liberal. Part of the* reason that contraception was so scarce is that a pretence was always maintained that free sex was *not* going on. In Russia a certain degree of sexual liberalism goes hand in hand with tight-lipped prudery, and, contrary to Western belief, only the latter is usually allowed out in the open.

This faintly hypocritical morality is a relic of the Soviet days, when the lie that everything was for the best in the best of all possible worlds was maintained on many levels. Under communism, teenage couples kept quiet about their sex lives and married early, often as a result of an unexpected pregnancy. Fidelity was (and is) considered a bizarre Western notion, like teetotalism or pacifism. But these couples retained their moral purity in society's eyes by getting married, and only then did they go on to have illicit affairs. The idea that Russians are more sexually easygoing than we are is misleading — they may be, but they pretend not to be. While Russian voters do seem to appreciate manliness that borders on machismo in a leader, and while they are always glad to know that the boss is, or was, a bit of a ladies' man, they do not want to be told how to live their lives by someone like the Prosecutor-General, who openly humiliates his wife and who uses the services of prostitutes.

Russians may despise Americans for their perceived prudery (there are hundreds of unprintable Russian jokes involving chilly American women and *passionate* Russian men to attest to this), but their most popular politicians are, as in America, happily married with children.

Boris Yeltsin himself was involved in a bizarre scandal in the late 1980s in which he is said to have fallen into the Moscow River. But it was the suggestion, and only the suggestion, that a jealous *husband* might have been involved that the Russian public appreciated. Had a jealous husband and an unfaithful wife actually emerged, it is likely that Mr Yeltsin's reputation would indeed have been damaged. (Valentin Kovalyov, the former Justice Minister, was sent packing in a sex scandal very similar to last week's sordid offering.)

While Russians may have a reputation for a greater acceptance of sexual misdemeanours, they prefer, like the rest of us, *that such indiscretions* remain private. We can nod and wink about them, but to flaunt them is no more acceptable here than it is at home.

comment@the-times.co.uk

THE TIMES DIARY

What a cop-out

UNDERCOVER police officers have been running up large bills at Mirabelle to catch Marco Pierre White serving after-hours drinks at his Mayfair restaurant. But the clandestine operation has so far *proved an abject failure*: sitting among the establishment's regulars, such as Mick Jagger, the Duke of Marlborough and Liam Gallagher, the representatives from the local constabulary are spotted faster than it *takes to sear tuna*.

Pierre White's restaurant first came to the attention of the authorities in a newspaper review towards the end of last year after Lord Lloyd-Webber mentioned that the place was "buzzing at 1am". Sadly, the composer had not known that the joint is supposed to call last orders at midnight and ensure that diners have finished their drinks at 12.20am.

In the latest "test purchase", two bobbies dropped round last Thursday, and a couple of hours later had little change left over from the £300 allocated from petty cash. Pierre White's garçons slavishly indulged the pair's palates until the dot of midnight when they made a grandiose point of calling time and began ushering the officers to the door.

SUCCESS in the movies has demanded that Rachel Weisz, pictured, acts as if she is in a Japanese game show. Recalling The Mummy, *her latest flick, she says: "I was handcuffed to an altar in a rodent-infested*



cemetery, with live rats clambering all over my body for a whole week. Another time, I had live locusts poured over my head and entangled in my hair."

■ WHEN some of Labour's more chippy backbenchers saw an unattended Jag breaking parking rules within Westminister's precincts, they looked forward to indulging in a spot of class warfare. Assuming that such imperious behaviour could be displayed only by an old Tory stalwart, they gleefully shopped the owner to the police.

Their catch turned out to be far greater a prize than they had ever imaged, however. As the motor was about to be towed away, the MPs were delighted to see Barbara Follett, a colleague and wife of the millionaire novelist, jump into the driver's seat and speed away.

ANTONIO BANDERAS is to face the wrath of Michael Crawford fans. The Michael Crawford Phantom Movie Campaign has taken out a full-page ad in today's Daily Variety *to complain that the matinée idol rather than the original star will be the lead in the film of Lord Lloyd-Webber's singalong. Behind the mask, can one tell the difference?*

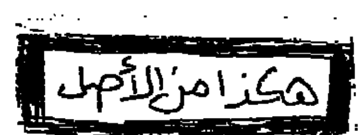


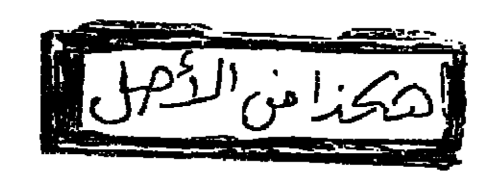
■ A Liberal Democrat MP is challenging Sir Winston Churchill's legacy. Norman Baker, whose only claim to fame is as Parliament's most prolific question-setter, wants the lifts at Westminster to go faster. Baker says: "Unless you are one-legged, it is quicker to walk. Churchill had the lifts slowed down because they made him feel sick."

MICHAEL HARDERN, the eccentric freelance butler caught riffling through the Prince of Wales's private letters at Highgrove, is promising to disclose all at a press conference today. After Morton and Hewitt, there surely cannot be too many royal secrets left.

■ LORD HEMPHILL has made a strong case for reform of the Upper House without opening his mouth. Since inheriting his title in 1957, he has not uttered a single word in the chamber. Hemphill, however, attended 101 days in the last session, allowing him to claim up to £14,140.

JASPER GERARD









THE TIMES

THE THIRD TEST

The euro must be a durable success that has popular support

Politicians are skilled at painting silver linings round the blackest of clouds. Their instinctive reaction to the most violent storm is to declare, waving even as they drown, that it has "cleared the air". Voters, who understand this game perfectly, have put their own gloss on the claims in European Union capitals that the shipwreck of the European Commission was a European "success", a date with destiny triumphantly met by the European Parliament and, in Tony Blair's words, an "opportunity to be seized". Dry-eyed, they ask why, when their governments knew that these stables were waist-deep in muck, they — and Strasbourg's coddled MEPs — had not picked up their shovels long ago.

The truest note struck last week was the evident public satisfaction at this humbling of the over-mighty. It reveals the deep unpopularity of "Brussels", as a force that affects people's lives without them being able to do anything about it. Political elites should listen hard; for popular revolt could also be the fate of the euro, if the jobs, growth and all the other good things promised in its name do not materialise.

FIVE TESTS FOR EUROPE

That brings us to the third test that must be met before calling a British referendum on EMU. The first two dealt with the high tax, high cost "European social model" and the risks to Britain of entering a eurozone burdened with unsustainable pensions and welfare costs, over-regulated labour markets, excessive state intervention and public spending — and armies of unemployed. Our third test has a political dimension; the euro must work smoothly to the benefit of all and have clear public support. When elites talk about a "successful" euro, they mean that it will be stable, relatively strong, and a catalyst for political union. They take the popularity or monetary union for granted.

They should not. It is a curious feature of the euro notes to be introduced in 2002 that the buildings they depict do not exist. To avoid national associations, a sort of architectural Year Zero blanks out Europe's varied cultural inheritance, the streets people walk, the cathedrals of their faith. This disconnection from the world people actually live in works both ways. Eurostat opinion polls show that of those who welcome the euro, only a quarter claim to know how EMU will work. Instead of uniting Europeans, there is thus a risk that a single currency could divide them. How many voters yet realise that it has irreversibly changed the way they are governed? Will they like it when they do? Provided EMU gives a powerful boost to eurozone growth and jobs, people may conclude that the gains outweigh the loss of national control. But as our earlier tests show, that will require radical welfare and labour reforms that will be painful, unpopular — and blamed on the euro.

Above all, a single interest rate will work well for all only if each country's business cycles, and economic profiles are convergent — something Germany has failed to achieve within its own borders in the decade since unification. Success would bring its own problems, exaggerating both booms and busts; but the eurozone is miles from converging now. The last thing booming Ireland and Spain need is lower interest rates, while the Germans are gasping for them. Ironing out asymmetric shocks will be much harder in the eurozone than it is in the US, where federal tax revenues account for 20 per cent of GDP. Only 1.26 per cent of GDP flows to Brussels; and the common agricultural policy devours half the EU budget. Under EMU, a government can no longer set its interest rates or exchange rate targets. That leaves only taxes and public spending. But France and Germany are waging war on fiscal flexibility; and the stability pact is designed to stop countries spending their way out of trouble.

By 2001 or 2002, when Mr Blair hopes to call a referendum on EMU, it should be clearer whether the euro has stimulated, or stymied, structural reforms. But it will be impossible to know whether the euro is proof against economic shocks. Any objective test would have to cover a full economic cycle. And it must be met not just in the view of economists, but of the public.

A single currency without a single government is *terra incognita*. If it is felt to impose more pain than gain, eurozone voters can no longer change policies by electing a new government. The consequences could be explosive. EMU could generate social unrest, national tensions and a backlash against the EU itself. The economic risks of EMU have been the more fully rehearsed; but the political ones could prove the more deadly. As Mr Blair told the Commons last month, EMU "is an intensely political act". But that is why he was so wrong to say, in the same breath, that his Government had "resolved the political issues", in favour of joining, "should the economic tests be met". The political issues are anything but resolved.













CREDIBILITY CONTEST

A difficult by-election beckons for Blair and Hague

In ordinary circumstances a mid-term by-election for a Parliament in which one party enjoys a 179-strong majority would not be especially consequential. The manner in which Fiona Jones lost her seat in the House of Commons and the margin of her victory two years ago means, however, that the electors of Newark are destined for considerable analysis. In very different ways this contest represents a test of credibility for both the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition.

When Ms Jones was convicted on Friday, the first reaction of many at Westminster was a certain sympathy. Although she has become the first MP disqualified for fraud in 75 years, few doubt that Britain's extraordinarily restrictive constituency spending limits were breached by scores of candidates in marginal seats at the last election.

Subsequent developments suggest, however, that this affair was not an isolated incident but part of a wider picture of alleged impropriety and apparent fratricide within the East Midlands Labour Party. Numerous complaints were made to the Labour Party's National Executive Committee but it refused to take action. The NEC may now suspend the whole Newark Labour Party, impose its own by-election candidate and hold an inquiry. But this will not mitigate its failure to act sooner. This is the sort of murky factionalism that Tony Blair has attempted to persuade the public that he had eliminated, or at least confined to a few urban enclaves. As he is aware, much of his own party remains his most pressing electoral liability. This by-election will inevitably put Labour sleaze in the spotlight.

William Hague, on the other hand, needs to show that he is not a liability to his party. With the exception of the Uxbridge poll, held only one month after he had replaced John Major, the Conservative performance in the few by-elections of this Parliament has been unimpressive. Mr Hague's associates are already attempting to play down expectations. This is a doomed exercise. If the Tories cannot capture a seat that requires a mere 3 per cent swing in a scandal-stained situation, their chances at the next general election will be even poorer than they currently appear.

There is little point in the Tories trying to persuade anyone that for them the Newark contest is unimportant. A Labour victory would set into sharp context the several hundred gains that the Conservatives should make, at a minimum, in local government elections this May. Those seats were last fought in 1995, the low point of Tory fortunes this century. Mr Hague does not want the European elections in June to become some sort of referendum on his leadership. A clean win in Newark would avoid that. Mr Blair, by contrast, needs to prove that the Jones saga does not show another unseen side of New Labour.

LORDS OF THE AIR

The triumphant balloonists point the way to new challenges

More than two hundred years since Joseph and Etienne Montgolfier sent a sheep, duck and a rooster aloft in a balloon over Versailles, the nine-tonne *Breitling Orbiter 3* yesterday touched down gently in the Great Sand Sea, a desolate expanse where few men have trod since a sandstorm swallowed up the army of Cambyses some 2,500 years ago. The Montgolfier flight began man's quest to the farthest reaches of the heavens, culminating in the landing on the Moon. Yet balloon flight itself remained tantalisingly circumscribed. Explorers went ever higher and further in their precarious gondolas; but they never managed to travel beyond the oceans that divide the world. Circumnavigation of the globe remained the ultimate challenge, and one that, until yesterday, had eluded more than half a dozen enormously expensive attempts.

Jaded, perhaps, by highly publicised expeditions that ended in watery failure, the world paid little attention to Bertrand Piccard and Brian Jones when they lifted off from the Alps 21 days ago. But their nerve, their skill and their good humour have won them the admiration and praise of enthusiasts and rivals alike, as well as a place in the records of human daring. For Mr Piccard, there is an added sweetness to his achievement: his grandfather Auguste was the first man to reach the stratosphere in a balloon in 1931 and his father set a record in 1960 for the deepest ocean dive.

The race to circle the world is won; and Britain can take pride in a ballooning instructor whose quiet grit has beaten the better known attempts of Richard Branson to win the $1 million trophy. But Mr Branson, generous in his congratulation, insists that the game is not over: he will now sponsor a round-the-world race.

There are still new frontiers to cross: no one has yet touched the floor of the deepest oceans, sledged across the Bering Strait or swum the Atlantic. Mankind will seek new feats of daring and endurance; for now it can rejoice in the triumph that began in Paris all those years ago.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Ambiguity in GE food assurances

From the Executive Director of Greenpeace UK

Sir, Neither better labelling (leading article, March 19) nor some deal to halt commercial planting of genetically engineered (GE) crops in the UK for a few years will give people the real choice of not eating GE food. Only a permanent ban will do that.

Labelling will not remove the 80 per cent of processed food from the big food manufacturers on UK supermarket shelves that contains GE ingredients. These ingredients still pour in unchecked week after week through UK ports. Even with a moratorium, we risk irreversible and uncontrollable contamination of the environment from field trials in the UK and commercial planting elsewhere.

We are faced with one of the most important and urgent choices of our time: whether we want increasingly industrialised and engineered food or more natural and more organic food. British people have already made their choice clear.

If British people are to retain their right to choose, the Government must at least match the current rate of growth for organic agriculture in the UK with the rest of Europe. If current rates continue, 30 per cent of agricultural land in Europe will be farmed organically by 2010. The UK, with less than 1 per cent of land currently farmed organically, lags behind.

Yours sincerely,
PETER MELCHETT,
Executive Director,
Greenpeace UK,
Canonbury Villas, N1 2PN.
March 19.

From Dr Mark Avery

Sir, Ministers have repeatedly assured the public that they will not permit widespread commercial releases of genetically modified crops unless field trials show that these crops are environmentally safe. The Government's research will not be complete before December 2002, yet ministers steadfastly maintain that commercial release is possible as early as next spring. This policy confounds good science and common sense; the research must come first and should inform subsequent government actions.

Perhaps something more subtle is going on. The Government might allow the sale of the products from the field trials themselves — effectively a limited commercial release. This would explain the apparent contradiction at the heart of current policy and would justify ministerial denials that this week's leaked Cabinet Office memo refers to an extended voluntary ban on commercial releases (report, March 16). If this explanation is correct, it raises the questions of how extensive the trials will become and where the boundary between "limited" and "full" commercialisation lies.

The public should not have to speculate on such important issues. The Government should state its intentions clearly.

Yours faithfully,
MARK AVERY
(Director, Conservation),
The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds,
The Lodge, Sandy,
Bedfordshire SG19 2DL.
March 16.

Shopkeeper's dilemma

From Dr Kenneth Mole

Sir, Once again the Government has rushed thoughtlessly to grab popularity.

It is only from the media that our village shopkeeper (his viability, unlike that of supermarkets, already weakened by a forced £90 contribution to food-safety administration) has learnt of a possible fine of £5,000 for non-disclosure, as from today, of the presence of more than 1 per cent of GM ingredient in the food he sells. How is he supposed to know what science cannot sensibly measure?

I hope he will survive by putting in his window, today, a postcard:
As far as I am aware, everything I sell here, from toothpaste to deep-frozen curry, contains at least 1 per cent of GM material.

Yours sadly,
KENNETH MOLE,
The School, Buckhorn Weston,
Gillingham, Dorset SP8 5HS.
March 19.

Cash in hand

From Mr Keith Chambers

Sir, Although one cannot avoid having sympathy for the employment situation at Longbridge (report, March 19), it is not hard to grasp the irony of British taxpayers being asked by BMW/Rover to put money into the firm so that it, in return, can charge them some 50 per cent more for some of its products (report, March 18) than people in other countries.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH CHAMBERS,
19 Hill Road, Oakley,
Basingstoke, Hampshire RG23 7HS.
March 19.

Sport letters, page 34

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

'Superior alternative' to A levels

From Professor Sir Hermann Bondi, FRS

Sir, I am delighted that you gave pride of place (report and leading article, March 18) to Sevenoaks School's switch from A levels to the International Baccalaureate (IB). This excellent and demanding examination is much superior in coherence, depth and breadth to A levels.

Atlantic College, that superb international school in South Wales, pioneered the use of the IB in this country. Some other schools also use it with success. Many universities are by now well used to it.

May the IB go from strength to strength!

Yours faithfully,
HERMANN BONDI,
Churchill College,
Cambridge CB3 0DS.
March 18.

From the Principal of United World College of the Atlantic

Sir, It is clear that the Government's new policies for post-16 education are a significant change to the principles of the narrow A-level programme.

Its practical proposals, however, may just not quite achieve its aims. The IB is a tried and tested system which has the very things the Government is seeking. Sevenoaks and perhaps Winchester have spotted this, as have many other schools and colleges in the UK, not all of them, by any means, in the selective, public school arena.

Atlantic College saw the light in 1971 and has 5,000 IB "graduates". IB is elegant, it works, and its students are prepared for testing university programmes in the UK and beyond.

In Wales there has been much interest in a Welsh baccalaureate proposal which builds on the IB to include vocational aims as well — the much searched-for overarching qualification.

The Government is to be praised for its first tentative steps and perhaps soon it will have the courage to go that little bit further.

Yours sincerely,
COLIN JENKINS,
Principal, United World College of the Atlantic,
St Donat's Castle, Llantwit Major,
Vale of Glamorgan CF61 1WF.
March 18.

From Mr Michael Tiley

Sir, The majority of sixth-form pupils at Malvern College, as well as at Sevenoaks School, take the IB and may well be joined by those at Winchester and other independent and state schools. Those schools will be at an unfair disadvantage if your annually published league tables of school exam results do not include the IB as well as the A-level results.

At LSE we include our A-level and IB entrance requirements for undergraduate courses in our prospectus. Surely the time has come for an authoritative body, such as the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service or the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, to produce a reliable table indicating the equivalence of GCE A levels, Scottish Highers and the IB for the guidance of schools, universities and employers.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL TILEY
(Head of College Careers Service),
London School of Economics,
Room E388,
Houghton Street, WC2A 2AE.
m.tiley@lse.ac.uk
March 18.

Access to legal aid

From the Minister of State in the Lord Chancellor's Department

Sir, It is simply not true, as Benedict Birnbirg states (letter, March 10), that the Government is withdrawing legal aid from most money claims, or that as a quid pro quo for the withdrawal of legal aid we are allowing lawyers to use conditional fees. We believe that as conditional fees have been available since July 1995 for personal injury cases they now provide a suitable alternative to public funding for most of these cases. We intend to use the scarce taxpayers' money to target areas of greatest need: people will still be able to get help, including bringing money claims, in the areas of social welfare, housing and enforcement of rights.

It is inaccurate also to suggest that large cases, such as that recently brought against the tobacco companies, will not be able to be brought in future because lawyers will not be willing to bear the risks of litigation. One of the reforms we are making in the Access to Justice Bill is to allow funding to be given to cases which might not otherwise merit support if they raise a wider significant public interest.

We have also recognised that in some cases it may not be possible for the lawyer or the client to bear the risks of using conditional fees, initially at least, where there are high investigative or overall costs. We intend to make public funds available in meritorious cases.

We are determined to make the establishment of the Community Legal Service a reality in order to give people a new way of getting legal help. That will require lawyers to change the way they do business and undertake work that is publicly funded. We simply have to reform legal aid and the way legal services are provided if we are to make access to justice not simply a slogan but a reality.

Sincerely,
GEOFF HOON,
Lord Chancellor's Department,
Selborne House,
54-60 Victoria Street, SW1E 6QW.
March 15.

Banana dispute

From Mr Brian Griffin

Sir, The banana war highlights the failings of both the UK and EU authorities (letters, March 5, 8, 10, 12). That the EU and the US should have failed to resolve a disagreement in over six years is astonishing, even by the EU's standards of inactivity.

The imposing of sanctions by the US (tariffs by any other name) which disproportionately affect the UK, its oldest and most trusted European ally, must rank as one of the gravest political errors of the Clinton Administration. The tariffs show no logical commercial or economic sense.

Tony Blair's contribution has been to guarantee the bonds payable by the cashmere industry, whilst virtually ignoring the needs of the rest of the UK's exporters. The timing of the guarantee, made whilst he was on a trip to Scotland where he is in political trouble, suggests it was not quite the genuine gesture it seemed.

To a small company, encouraged by successive governments to expand and export, the current situation only proves that while under old Labour it was "export or die", under new Labour it is "export and die".

Yours faithfully,
B. GRIFFIN
(Director), Beamglow Ltd,
Somersham Road, St Ives,
Huntingdon PE17 4LP.
March 18.

From Mr Peter Ryan

Sir, The banana crisis in the Caribbean is the second major farming problem for the Caribbean islands. For two decades they searched for alternative crops to cane sugar, with little success.

I spent 1983-89 in the Caribbean partly in helping the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation to find saleable crops. The domestic market is mainly hotels, empty May to November. Exports of exotic fruits must travel by air. The US prevents exports of citrus. Mango exports are impractical because of complex non-tariff barriers. The climate is unreliable and too hot for many crops. Plant diseases are rife. Insects, slugs, monkeys and drought destroy many crops.

Bananas grow on poor, steep land, unlike in Central America and Ecuador, which is why costs are high. Shipping to Europe involves a complex, tightly scheduled system collecting from Dominica, Grenada, St Lucia, and St Vincent. This will now collapse. Unemployment on these islands is already over 30 per cent; outside the tourist season more than 50 per cent.

"Dollar bananas" will kill this trade, and one replacement crop will inevitably be cannabis, already grown on some islands. The State Department must be aware that a sharp increase in drug smuggling will result from backing the Chiquitas, Doles and other US firms who already have most of the banana market. The EU cannot replace the banana trade any more than it could replace the loss of sugar exports.

Yours faithfully,
PETER RYAN,
44a Fellows Road, NW3 3LH.
March 13.

Women priests

From the Reverend Jean Mayland

Sir, No one wants to drive George Austin, Edwin Barnes or John Shead out of the Church of England (letters, March 9; see also letters, March 4, 12, 13). According to the conscience clauses of the measure which made provision for the ordination of women to the priesthood, parishes do not have to receive women priests and male priests do not have to work with them. There is plenty of time for consensus to be reached. We women priests have lots to do in the meantime.

What we cannot accept is the right of parishes to refuse to receive their own bishop simply because he has ordained women and to demand to have a "flying bishop" instead.

The Act of Synod, which makes provision for these bishops, has not promoted harmony but entrenched division. As it is so divisive, as well as being ecumenically objectional, untheological and doctrinally debatable, it is high time it was rescinded and flying bishops became ordinary bishops with more conventional ways of working and methods of transport.

Yours faithfully,
JEAN M. MAYLAND,
125 Thanet House,
Thanet Street, WC1H 9QE.
March 17.

Pinning down a culture of racism

From Ms Beverley Thompson

Sir, Michael Gove writes in defence of public services, and in particular the police, against the accusation of institutional racism ("Tories have no right to be silent", March 16). He says that the Macpherson report "seeks to damn without securing what any court would require before pronouncing guilt — clear evidence of motivation".

I observed the Stephen Lawrence inquiry and gave evidence on behalf of NACRO on the issue of institutional racism. The fact that "motivation" is absent does not prevent an institution from performing in a way that has racist consequences.

This is not limited to police officers' greater readiness to perceive young black men as suspects rather than victims. The police service, in common with other criminal justice agencies, fails to recruit anywhere near the proportion of racial minorities equivalent to the population at large, especially in London. Officers from racial minorities who are employed have not reached senior ranks in numbers which reflect their presence in the general population.

Five times more black young men are stopped and searched than any other group. But the arrest rates are the same for this group as for any other. The Metropolitan Police's own report on stop and search acknowledged that racial stereotypes play a part in the disproportionate use of these powers.

When the outcome of institutional processes such as these has a racial dimension, and one group is consistently disadvantaged compared with others, that becomes racism of an institutional kind. We urged the inquiry to recommend that checks should be put in place to ensure that equality was achieved both in police employment and in the service that the police deliver to the public.

Michael Gove suggests that the inquiry was successful only in proving incompetence. The question that the inquiry had to address was, why were so many officers so incompetent? If the same question is ever raised again the police service must be able to show that the reason is not indifference to the needs, hopes, fears and concerns of racial minority groups.

To its credit, the police service seems to be recognising this. The standard which must now be achieved applies to every single agency.

Yours faithfully,
BEVERLEY THOMPSON
(Director of Strategy),
National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders,
169 Clapham Road, SW9 0PU.
March 17.

From Mr Ralph Blumenau

Sir, Since the Macpherson report's inappropriate ascription of "institutional racism" to the police, we have had it ascribed, equally sweepingly, to schools; and today (article, Law) Maria Fernandes and Anuja Dhir apply it to the legal profession.

Lawyers of all people should use words more carefully, and should be able to distinguish between "institutional racism" and a "racist culture within an institution". The former is properly used where institutions have racist rules — as in Nazi Germany, in apartheid South Africa, or in clubs which used to have formal rules excluding groups from membership on racist grounds.

A "racist culture" does pervade parts of many institutions which are formally committed to racial equality. That is utterly deplorable and needs to be eliminated; but at least the term does not taint entire institutions, many of whose members actively implement and promote a non-racist culture.

Yours faithfully,
RALPH BLUMENAU,
111 Princes House,
50 Kensington Park Road, W11 3BW.
March 16.

From Professor Kenneth Minogue

Sir, "Half the trouble in Brussels, as at the UN, is the practice of allocating jobs and contracts by national quotas, not merit," writes Simon Jenkins ("Derail the gravy train", March 17).

No doubt. And is not this the same policy which is being urged upon the police, the theatre, the legal profession and many other areas of life — in the name of combating "institutional racism"?

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH MINOGUE,
Centre for Policy Studies,
57 Tufton Street, SW1P 3QL.
March 17.

Thought for the day

From Mrs Heather Berger

Sir, Mr David Cowan (letter, March 18) congratulates you on your choice of 1 Timothy vi, 7 as a suitable text around the time of the Budget.

Perhaps those same words — "and we won't take anything with us when we leave" — could find a place in the service contracts of the next European commissioners.

Yours sincerely,
HEATHER BERGER,
Kirkton Craig, Abernyte,
Perthshire, PH14 9ST.
bergerh@cwcom.net
March 18.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 20: The Duke of Edinburgh, President Emeritus, World Wide Fund for Nature — WWF International, this morning departed *Bayanga Airstrip, Central* African Republic, and arrived at Nsimalen Civil Airport, Yaoundé, Cameroon.

His Royal Highness today departed Nsimalen Civil Airport for Gabon.

The Duke of Edinburgh later arrived at Libreville Airport, Gabon, and attended a Lunch with President Bongo at the Presidental Palace, Libreville, Gabon.

His Royal Highness this afternoon departed Libreville Airport for Gamba.

The Duke of Edinburgh later arrived at Gamba Airport and carried out a Field Trip in Petit Loango.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 20: The Duke of York, Colonel-in-Chief, attended the Final Freedom March and Regimental Reception for the 3rd Battalion The Staffordshire Regiment, at Lichfield, Staffordshire.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 20: The Duke of Edinburgh, President Emeritus of the World Wide Fund for Nature — WWF International, today carried out a Field Trip in South West Gabon.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 21: The Princess Royal, President, Shire Horse Society, accompanied by Commodore Timothy Laurence, Royal Navy, this morning visited the National Shire Horse Show at the East of England Showground, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, and was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgshire (Mr James Crowden).

Royal engagements

The Prince of Wales, patron, the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Ethiopian Challenge 1999 Expedition, will attend a reception in aid of the expedition at St James's Palace at 5.30.

The Princess Royal, patron, the Butler Trust, will attend the annual award ceremony at Buckingham Palace at 11.30; will open Hill Homes' new nursing home, Bridgeside Lodge, in Wharf Road, Islington, London N1, at 3.00; and, as patron, Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust, will attend the launch of the Gerald Durrell biography at HarperCollins, 77-85 Fulham Palace Road, London SW7, at 7.00pm.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Sir Anthony Van Dyck, painter, Antwerp, 1599; Adam Sedgwick, geologist and dalesman, Dent, Yorkshire, 1785; William I, King of Prussia 1861-88, German Emperor 1871-88, Berlin, 1797; Carl Rosa, founder of the opera company bearing his name, Hamburg, 1842; "Chico" Marx, actor and comedian, New York, 1891; Nicholas Monsarrat, novelist, Liverpool, 1910; Gerard Hoffnung, artist, humorist and musician, Berlin, 1925.

DEATHS: Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, poet, Weimar, Germany, 1832; Thomas Hughes, politican and author of *Tom Brown's Schooldays*, Brighton, 1896; Frederick William Farrar, writer of school stories and Dean of Canterbury 1895-1903, Canterbury, 1903; Michael Todd, film magnate, killed in an air crash, New Mexico, 1958.

Because of a drought the American side of the Niagara Falls ran short of water, 1903.

The first cabs with taxi meters began operating in London, 1907.

Dachau concentration camp, a former First World War munitions factory near Munich, was opened, 1933.

Reception

Her Majesty's Government
The Secretary of State for Defence, the Right Hon George Robertson, MP, and the Chairman of the National Employers' Liaison Committee, Mr John Bridgeman, TD, DL, were hosts at a Reception held at Lancaster House on March 17, 1999, in recognition of Employers' support for The Volunteer Reserve Forces of the United Kingdom. The Chief Executives and senior members of many companies and organisations, *together with members of the* regular and reserve forces were among the guests.

Earlier, the Prime Minister presented a Certificate to Canon (UK) Ltd, the 6,000th organisation to declare its support for the Volunteer Reserve Forces. Mr Robertson presented further certificates at the Reception.

Mr Nigel Kent-Lemon

A service to celebrate the life of Nigel Kent-Lemon will be held on Friday, March 26, at noon, at Holy Trinity Brompton, Knightsbridge.

Nature notes

The first sand martins are coming into Britain, after their flight over the Sahara. On arrival, they twist and flutter over lakes and rivers catching flying insects. The males then go back to their colonies in quarries and sandbanks, where in a week or two they will be flying round their nest holes and singing to attract a mate. There was an influx of great grey shrikes into Britain last week, probably birds on their way to Scandinavia. They are silvery-grey with black wings and eye patches, and a stout, hooked beak for killing smaller birds and mice. Magpies are repairing their big, domed nests: they fly clumsily with sticks as long as themselves in their beaks. Many more blackbirds are now singing: they answer each other with rich, flutey cadences from garden walls at dusk. The folded leaves of wood sorrel have broken through the leaf litter in the woods: this is one of the few flowers that flourishes in shade. The small white flowers of barren strawberry are open on wet hedgebanks, and the first waxy yellow flowers of marsh marigold, or kingcup, are unfolding among their shiny leaves at the edge of ponds. DJM

The sand martin


PAUL ROGERS

John Heathcote, of Devon Orchids, admiring one of the thousands of orchids that were on display at the RHS's Westminster show

Dazzling display of orchids great and small

BY ALAN TOOGOOD
HORTICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

ORCHIDS range from plants so small that a magnifying glass is needed to appreciate them, to giants several feet across carrying hundreds of blooms.

Such was the diversity at the Royal Horticultural Society's London orchid show. One of the tiniest plants, *Trichocentrum capistratum*, from Costa Rica, shown by Ric Neirynck, an amateur grower from Belgium, also claims the title of one of the rarest orchids. Mr Neirynck is propagating it for conservation purposes.

The largest plant at the show, held in Westminster over the weekend, was a *Coelogyne cristata* "Glacier Mint" in the competitive section. At over a metre in diameter and with almost 1,000 white flowers, it won a first prize for David Oakey, of Doccombe, Devon.

The show was supported by exhibiters from around the world. Warrnambool Orchids, of Victoria, Australia, staged a collection of *Dendrobium cuthbertsonii*, a miniature orchid from New Guinea in various colours, which makes an ideal houseplant.

Part of the rarely seen slipper orchid (Paphiopedilum) collection from the French Senate's Luxembourg Garden in Paris, was staged at the show. The collection, started in 1859, is the most important collection of slipper orchids in France. The exhibit, the first in England, ranged from old to modern hybrids, mostly bred at the garden. Another French exhibitor, Vacherot et Lecoufle orchids, of Boissy, was awarded a gold medal for a dazzling display of hybrids which included brilliant orange *Cattleya* "Golden Girl".

Motes Orchids, of Florida, featured blue vandas bred mainly by Dr Martin Motes. Many were of a very desirable deep violet colour, such as the hybrid "Indigo".

Among the large displays of popular *hybrids from British* growers, gold medals were awarded to Ivens Orchids, of Sandridge, Hertfordshire; McBean's Orchids, of Cooksbridge, Sussex, which featured cymbidiums, including the new "Giant Peach" with extra large peach-coloured flowers; and Orchid Answers, of Almodington, West Sussex, which included a centrepiece of masdevallia hybrids from the United States, whose small brilliantly coloured flowers have elongated petals.

A gold medal was awarded to Johan and Clare Hermans, of Enfield, Middlesex, for a collection of photographs of rare Madagascan orchids. They were staged with an exhibit of endangered plants by Malala Orchids of Madagascar, whose propagation programme will help to save many *species, including the comet orchid* with pale lime-green flowers.

Artists awarded gold medals were Mr O. Q. Whalley, of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (paintings of the Andean orchids of Peru), and, for a joint exhibit of orchid paintings, Gillian Barlow and Ann Swan, of London, and Pauline Dean, of Guildford, Surrey.

Memorial services

The Earl of Devon
A memorial service for the Earl of Devon was held on Saturday in Exeter Cathedral. Canon K.C. Parry, Precentor, officiated, assisted by the Dean of Exeter who said the bidding prayer, and the Rev Raymond Webber, Rector of Powderham, who said prayers.

Lord Courtenay and Mr Michael Watney, grandsons, gave readings and the Earl of Devon, son, gave an address.

The Bishop of Exeter pronounced the blessing. Lady Katherine Watney, daughter, sang a solo. *The Rev Peter Dawkes and the Rev* William Cowlan were robed and in the sanctuary.

The Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Devon and the Countess of Iddesleigh, and the High Sheriff of Devon and Lady Day, attended. Among others present were:

Lady Eleonora Courtenay, Lady Camilla Courtenay, Mr Jeremy and Lady Rebecca Wharton and Mr and Mrs Michael Watney (grandchildren), Lady Rose Berger, (stepdaughter), Mr Bernard and Lady Paulina Hadley (stepson-in-law and step-daughter), Lady Mary Courtenay, Lady Gabrielle Courtenay and Lady Angela Horsley (sisters), the Countess of Devon (daughter-in-law), Mr and Mrs Patrick Anstey, Mr and Mrs Philip Penfold, Mrs Michael Anstey, Mrs David Scott-Langley, Mr and Mrs Jasper Clutterbuck, Mr and Mrs Richard Horsley, Mr and Mrs William Horsley, and other members of the family.

The Chairman of Devon County Council, the Vice-Chairman of Teignbridge District Council, Lieutenant-Colonel A J M Drake (representing the Coldstream Guards), the Rev Roy Tennant and other friends and representatives of organisations connected with Lord Devon

Lord Dunsany
A memorial service for Lord Dunsany, former Grand Bailiff of the Irish Bailiwick of the Military and Hospitaller Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem, was held yesterday in St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin.

The Very Rev Maurice Stewart, Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, officiated, assisted by clergy of various denominations. Mr Patrick Falloon and Mr William Montgomery read the lessons. Sir Richard Keane gave an address. Sheila Lady Dunsany, widow, Lord Dunsany, son, with other members of the family; the Duke of Westminster, the Grand Secretary General Commander of the Military and Hospitaller Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem representing the Grand Master, Knights and Dames of the Order the Grand Bailiff of the Irish Bailiwick and many other friends were present.

Memorial meeting

Naomi Mitchison
A memorial meeting for Naomi Mitchison, Lady Mitchison, was held on Saturday at University College London. Professor the Hon Denis Mitchison, son, Ms Jenni Calder, Mr Alen Oman, Dr the Hon Dame Anne McLaren, FRS, Mr Martin Pick and Baroness Williams of Crosby were the speakers.

Dr Graeme Mitchison, grandson, keyboard, played *Jerusalem*. Members of the family, friends and representatives of UK universities were present.

The Paramount Chief of the Bakgatla held a candle light vigil in Botswana.

Birthdays today

Mr George Benson, singer and guitarist, 56; *Viscount* Bolingbroke, 72; Mrs Betty Callaway, ice-skating trainer, 71; Miss Sheila Cameron, QC, Vicar-General of the Province of Canterbury, 65; Mr Philip Ely, former President, Law Society, 63; Mr Brian Hanrahan, broadcaster, 50; Mr D.C. Ingman, former chairman, British Waterways Board, 71; the Very Rev Lawrence Jackson, Provost Emeritus of Blackburn, 73; Professor Harry Kay, former Vice-Chancellor, Exeter University, 80; Lord Lloyd-Webber, 51; M Marcel Marceau, mime artist, 76; Mr R.P. Mardling, Principal, Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Wakefield, 55; Mr Alan Opie, baritone, 54; Mr Charles Pick, publisher, 82; Sir Lynden Pindling, former Prime Minister of the Bahamas, 69; Professor William Ritchie, Vice-Chancellor, Lancaster University, 59; Mr Paul Schockemöhle, showjumper, 54; Mr William Shatner, actor, 68; Mr Stephen Sondheim, composer and lyricist, 69; Professor Sir Colin Spedding, chairman, Council of Science and Technology Institutes, 74; Lord Stokes, 85; Mr Leslie Thomas, author, 68; Admiral Sir Richard Thomas, 67; Professor Sir *Leslie Turnberg, former President*, Royal College of Physicians, 65; Miss Fanny Waterman, concert pianist and teacher, 79; Professor Sir David Watson, director, Brighton University, 50; Sir Peter Williams, chairman, Oxford Instruments, 54; Miss Priscilla Yates, a former Director, Royal Academy of Dancing, 52.

Latest wills

Michael **Denison**, *the actor*, of Amersham, left estate valued at £69,000 net.
He left his whole estate to his wife, the actress, playwright and authoress Dulcie Gray, whom he married in 1939.

Sir Geoffrey Hirst **Bateman**, surgeon, St Thomas' Hospital, London, 1931-71, of Petworth, Sussex, left estate valued at £615,103 net.

Baroness Craighton, of Wraysbury, Berkshire, left estate valued at £449,914 net.
She left £5,000 each to WWF-UK, Jersey Wild Life Preservation Trust, Fauna and Flora Preservation Society; £2,000 each to Barnardo's, Age Concern, and the RSPCA; £1,000 to Wraysbury parish council; £500 to Wraysbury parish church.

Lady **Lloyd**, widow of Sir Robert Lloyd, of Upton Wirral, Merseyside, left estate valued at £543,285 net.
She left shares in her estate between the National Trust, *Woodland Trust*, Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind, Age Concern, Save the Children Fund, WWF-UK, RSPB, Cheshire Residential Homes, Guide Dogs for the Blind, Church of England Children's Society, Hoylake Cottage Hospital Trust, Wirral and Cheshire Badger Group, National Canine Defence League, Donkey Sanctuary and People's Trust for Endangered Species.

Lady Peppiatt, widow of Sir Kenneth Peppiatt, of Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, left estate valued at £162,864 net.
She left £500 to the PCC of the Parish of Penn, Buckinghamshire.

John **Abraham**, of Clapham, Bedford, left estate valued at £1,484,586 net.

Russell Sydney **Blackwell**, plant hire contractor, of Rowhedge, Colchester, left estate valued at £1,608,225 net.

William Edwin Frederick **Caston**, of Plaxtol, Sevenoaks, Kent, left estate valued at £1,914,527 net.

James Nicholas Taylor **Channer**, of Amersham, Buckinghamshire, left estate valued at £1,696,580 net.

Arthur William **Cooke**, of Cringleford, Norfolk, left estate valued at £1,300,724 net.

Reginald George **Cowley**, of Calverton, Milton Keynes, left estate valued at £1,069,490 net.

Christopher Joseph **Dear**, of Solihull, left estate valued at £1,077,113 net.

Clifford **Ebbs**, of King's Lynn, Norfolk, left estate valued at £1,760,077 net.

Anne Mary **Geddes**, of Upwey, Weymouth, Dorset, left estate valued at £1,141,269 net.

Church news

Canon David Keith **Gillett**, Principal of Trinity Theological College, Bristol, and Honorary Canon of Bristol Cathedral, has been appointed to the Suffragan See of Bolton (Manchester diocese), in succession to the Right Rev David **Bonser**, from March 31.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr H.D. Bamforth and Miss C.C. Sweeting
The engagement is announced between Henry, son of Dr and Mrs John Bamforth, of Bassett, Hampshire, and Catherine, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Sweeting, of Ashley Green, Buckinghamshire.

Captain M.J.M. Clifton, RDG, and Miss G.E. Bailey
The engagement is announced between Matthew James, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Clifton, of Oxford, and Grace Elizabeth, younger daughter of Ms Kirsty Bailey, of Plymouth.

The Rev R.E.M. Dowler and Miss A.A. Tims
The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Mr Robert Dowler, of Buxton, Derbyshire, and of Mrs Catherine Chalker, of Highgate, London, and Anna, daughter of Mr and Mrs Hilton Tims, of Kingston Hill, Surrey.

Mr S.H. Gibson and Miss L.C. Squire
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs Jack Gibson, of Chippenham, Wiltshire, and Lyndall, daughter of Mr Martin Squire and the late Mrs Celia Squire, of Eastleach, Gloucestershire.

Mr B.S. Hart and Miss P.J. Segrove
The engagement is announced between Bryan, son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Hart, of Sevenoaks, Kent, and Philippa Jane (Pippa), eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Segrove, of Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire.

Mr J.W. Nettleton and Miss S.A. Parkes
The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr Peter Nettleton, of North Dalton, East Yorkshire, and Mrs Jane Waite, of North Ferriby, East Yorkshire, and Sally, daughter of Mr and Mrs Neil Parkes, of Welton, East *Yorkshire*.

Mr D.M. Tarshish and Miss P. Hamilton-Dick
The engagement is announced between Daniel, only son of the late Bennett Tarshish and of Mrs Sally Jeffrey, and stepson of Mr Stewart Jeffrey, of Oxford, and Pamela, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Alexander Dick, of Deal, Kent. The marriage will take place in New York.

Mr J.A. Turton and Miss J.M. Oldfield
The engagement is announced between John, son of the late Mr *Harry (Dick) Turton* and of Mrs Christine Turton, of Romsey, Hampshire, and Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs Tony Oldfield, of West Wittering, West Sussex.

Mr P. Waugh and Miss F.L. Rivers
The engagement is announced *between Paul, son of* Pauline Waugh, of Rochdale, Lancashire, and Frances, daughter of Tom and Isabel Rivers, of Deddington, Oxfordshire.

Service dinner

Southampton University Royal Naval Unit
Lieutenant Commander D.J. Wyatt presided at the inaugural Southampton University Royal Naval Unit alumni dinner held on Friday at the Dolphin Hotel, Southampton. Rear-Admiral J. Chadwick, Flag Officer Training and Recruiting, also spoke.

School news

Abingdon School
A reunion dinner for Old Abingdonians who left Abingdon between 1956-1970 will be held at *the School on Friday*, May 28, 1999. The Headmaster, Mr Michael St John Parker, the OA President, Mr Terence Libby and former members of the Common Room will attend. Further details may be obtained from the OA Administrator at the School. Telephone 01235 529517.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE; 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

God in his mercy has given us this work to do, and so we are not discouraged. 2 Corinthians 4.1 (GNB).

BIRTHS

BURT - On March 12th, 1999, in Johannesburg, to Sally (née Selby-Lowndes) and Lyndon, a son, Felix Thomas Alexander

CARRINGTON - On 17th March 1999 at the John Radcliffe Hospital to Alexandra (née Judd) and Michael, a son, Henry Alexander MaGuire, a brother for Anna.

FOWLER-WATERS - On the 13th of March to Helen and Richard, a daughter, Harriet

NEMETH - Andrew and Penny are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Nicole Sophie Nemeth on the 17th of March 1999

DEATHS

BANNISTER - On March 19th Reverend Edward Bannister aged 93 formerly Vicar of Sparsholt, Winchester. Funeral Service at St Stephen's Church, Sparsholt on Tuesday March 30th at 2.30 pm. No flowers. Donations, if desired, to Friends of Winchester Cathedral c/o Jno Steel & Son, Chesil House, Winchester

COLE - On March 18th 1999 peacefully at home, Irene, aged 86 years. Widow of Lieut.-General Sir George Cole, beloved mother of Jane and Peter and much loved grandmother of Annabelle, Robert, Alison and Alexander and great grandmother of Alice. Funeral service on Friday March 26th 12.30pm at the Church of The Good Shepherd, Pyrford, Surrey. Enquiries and flowers to G Boutell & Son, tel 01932 345037 or donations to The British Heart Foundation.

CURRIE - Margaret, widow of Major Allan P Currie M.C. Peacefully at Dr Gray's Hospital, Elgin, on 18th March 1999, aged 95 Devoted mother, grandmother and great grandmother Funeral private at her particular request. Family flowers only

FITCH - Ismini, peacefully in Athens aged 93, widow of Dr. Marc Fitch, mother of Fiona and grandmother of Melanie and Arabella

LAWSON - Kenneth Alexander aged 72 of Wincanton, Somerset. Memorial service at St Nicholas Church, Silton, Dorset on 25th March at 2.30 pm

MILLHOUSE - Kit. Peacefully on March 15th 1999 at the Priory Hospital Birmingham, in her 92nd year. Funeral Service at Kelsale Parish Church Suffolk, on Friday March 26th at 2 pm. Family flowers only, donations made payable to Kelsale Church c/o Tony Browns Funeral Service, Saxmundham, Suffolk IP17 1DJ

NICKSON - Frank, formerly *Chief Executive of the* London Borough of Camden died from cancer on 17th March 1999. Beloved husband of Christine for nine perfect months, also sadly missed by his mother, family and friends. Requiem Mass at Church of Christ The King, Bramley Road, Cockfosters at 11.00am on Wednesday 24th March 1999. Everyone welcome. Enquiries / flowers to Nethercott Funeral Directors 01707 652286.

O'DONOGHUE - Stephen Michael aged 23, suddenly on 15th March 1999 in London. Remembered with so much loved by close family and friends, may he rest in peace.

SHEAHAN - Ethna, peacefully on 17th March, aged 89 Remembered with much affection by family and friends. Requiem Mass at St Osmund's Church, Barnes, 10 am Friday 26th March

SHIEL - Louisa (Weeza). Much loved daughter of Alison and the late Michael Shiel, sister of Julia and Alexander, niece of Ann and aunt of Olivia and Lorna. Funeral Service on Saturday 27th March at 11.30 am Westerleigh Crematorium, nr. Bristol. Enquiries to Heaven on Earth - 0117 942 1836. Family flowers only.

SKINNER - Edith Franckeiss (Eve), on 20th March, peacefully at Rush Court N.H., Wallingford. Widow of Commander Hugh Skinner and mother of Jennifer and Rosemary. Funeral at Goring-on-Thames Parish Church at 2.30pm on Thursday 25th March, following private cremation. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu to R.N.L.I. c/o Chadwicks Funeral Services, Clockhouse Cottage, Benson Lane, Crowmarsh, Wallingford, OX10 6ED.

SMART - Ruth, widow of Josiah Fresson Smart, peacefully on 16th March Cremation at Cambridge City Crematorium. All enquiries to Brian Warner Funeral Director 01223 240257. No flowers please.

SWITHINBANK - Mary died peacefully at home on Tuesday 16th March. Private family funeral. No flowers by request, but donations may be made to Cambridge Mencap or Addenbrookes Charities (Cancer Research) and sent to Brian Warner, 4 Harshel Court, Hartington Grove, Cambridge CB1 4UB. A thanksgiving service will be announced at a later date.

TRETHEWEY - On 12th March 1999, peacefully at Downlands Park Nursing Home, Joyce Jessie aged 101. Much loved and greatly missed by all her family. Private family funeral service has taken place.

WEDDELL - Ralph Edward Goldsborough peacefully at home on 17th March 1999 aged 85. Much loved husband of Joan, father of Imogen, Adrian and John, grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral service at Pyecombe Church, Sussex on Wednesday 24th March at 2.00pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired to R.N.L.I. c/o Baker and Sons, 60 Church Road, Portslade, Brighton. Tel 01273 418464.

WOODARD - Sarah (née Rodney). Passed away March 18th 1999. Sadly missed by all her family. Grand daughter of the late Sir and Lady Wollaston (Garter King of Arms)

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call
0171 680 6880

MEMORIAL SERVICES

CRICHTON-STUART - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Sheila Crichton-Stuart will be held at Holy Trinity Church, Bembridge, IW on Wednesday 31st March *1999* at 2.30 pm.

ELWES - A Memorial Service will be held in thanksgiving for the life of Jeremy Elwes of Elsham and Roxby in Lincoln Cathedral on Monday 10th May at 2.30pm.

FILMER, Sandra. Died 24th February 1999. A Service of Thanksgiving to be held on Wednesday 24th March 1999 at 4pm at St. Peter's Church, Eaton Square, London, SW1, to celebrate the life of Sandra Filmer by all those who knew her.

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CHADWICK - Major Harry Piers Chadwick killed while serving with the Green Howards. Never Forgotten. Ema "Alma", Patricia, Adrian, Jason and Barbara.

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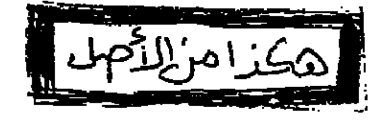
ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOST PASSPORT (Lebanese) Badir Mohammed. Lost since Feb '99, London. 0181 993 0724.

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OBITUARIES

ERNIE WISE

Ernie Wise, OBE, comedian, died yesterday aged 73. He was born on November 27, 1925.

At their peak, Eric Morecambe and Ernie Wise were probably Britain's best-loved entertainers. Their inimitable comic double act was forged in the variety halls and reached its triumphant maturity in the very different and more demanding medium of television. Its success was founded on superb technique: perfect timing; an ability to breathe fresh life into familiar gags and routine; and a talent for blending moments of inspired improvisation with material that was carefully polished and minutely rehearsed. In all they were together for 43 years.

They started as conventional cross-talk comedians in blatant imitation — down to the American accents — of the film comics, Abbott and Costello. But as the act developed, so it became more than an exchange of jokes, and the key to this was that Morecambe and Wise assumed distinct personalities.

It was a happy fusion of contrasting temperaments. Eric was ebullient, volatile and mocking; Ernie quieter, steadier, trying to stand on his dignity. But Wise was not just the straight man, the butt of insults about his meanness, his short, fat hairy legs and the join in his (imagined) wig; his contribution to the act was both positive and indispensable.

He was born Ernest Wiseman in Ardsley, near Leeds, the son of a railway porter and eldest of five children. His father was a spare-time entertainer in the Yorkshire working men's clubs, and Ernie, who showed an early aptitude for singing and dancing, joined him on stage from the age of seven in an act called Carson and Kid.

Leaving school at 13, Ernie was put under contract by the impresario Jack Hylton, and first met Eric Bartholomew — later Morecambe — when the two of them appeared in Bryan Michie's show *Youth Takes A Bow*, at the Swansea Empire. Eric's mother took the boys under her wing and the double act was born on a train journey between Birmingham and Coventry during the Blitz; in its early incarnation it involved a clog dancer and a boy with a lollipop. "Wiseman and Bartholomew" was too long to fit on a billboard. They thought of calling themselves Morecambe and Leeds, but decided it sounded too much like a cheap day return.

They were separated by National Service — Ernie serving in the Merchant Navy, Eric as a Bevin boy — but happened to meet in Russell Square in 1946 when both were looking for work. They were soon appearing in Lord George Sanger's Variety Circus, and their act developed from there, serving a tough apprenticeship as comic relief in nude shows, in pantomime and summer seasons and on radio.

By 1952 they were appearing regularly on radio, and two years later were given their own television series, *Running Wild*. But they had come on too quickly: *Running Wild* was panned by the critics and was a setback from which they took several years to recover. But time was on their side — they were not yet 30 — and they were able to go back to the variety stage to build up experience. They starred at the Palladium in 1959. Both had married in the early 1950s, Wise after a six-year courtship. Wise's wife, Doreen, often went on tour with the act.

In 1961 they were ready to take another chance with television, and this time they did not falter. Helped by sympathetic scriptwriters in Sid Green and Dick Hills, *The Morecambe and Wise Show* for ATV quickly found a successful format and grew steadily better. The series ran for seven years; the stage work continued; and there were also regular trips to the United States to appear on *The Ed Sullivan Show*.

Many of their catchphrases — "Get out of that" or "What do you think of it so far?" — were dreamt up on the spot as one or other of them struggled to get out of a mess.

During the 1960s they also made three films, *The Intelligence Men*, *That Riviera Touch* and *The Magnificent Two*, though like many comedians before them Morecambe and Wise found themselves ill-used on the large screen. Then in November 1968 all activities ceased when Morecambe suffered a serious heart attack.

After his recovery, and with Eddie Braben as their new scriptwriter, Morecambe and Wise went on to fresh heights. A highlight of the television year was their Christmas show, in which unlikely guests from Dame Flora Robson to Glenda Jackson and André Previn would happily let their hair down and join the fun. Even the former Prime Minister Harold Wilson appeared in a sketch, and half the population tuned in.

Although their names were forever paired in public, Morecambe and Wise did not spend much time together socially. Wise, unsurprisingly, was the business brain of the partnership, organising deals with agents. He had always dreamt of the Hollywood life over the rainbow, and enjoyed the trappings: the swimming pool, tennis courts, a yellow Rolls-Royce and a motor cruiser moored on the Thames which flowed past the end of his garden. "Oh yes, I like goodies," he once said.

By the early 1970s Morecambe and Wise were at their creative peak, gloriously inventive and drawing huge audiences. But television is a relentless devourer of material, and presents the constant danger of over-exposure. Even Morecambe and Wise were not immune, and from 1974 they decided to ration their appearances.

Less work should have meant more leisure time, but Wise found relaxing difficult, having had a sense of responsibility for earning money since childhood. "My whole life has been Morecambe and Wise," he said. "I have no hobbies."

Their Christmas show of 1976 caused an extraordinary fuss, because of the then unprecedented appearance of a newsreader, Angela Rippon, in the glamorous role of a dancer showing her splendid legs. A BBC journalist lost his job for leaking a picture of the said legs to the *Daily Mirror*, but the nation was delighted. Eric Morecambe and Ernie Wise were both appointed OBE that year.

The following year their Christmas special attracted a record 27.5 million viewers; but in 1978, after a decade with the BBC, the duo moved to ITV, trebling their money. "We get luncheon vouchers here," Eric told the press. And Ernie added that the real reason they had left the BBC was that Des O'Connor had joined. "When he leaves, we will go back."

But Morecambe's health could not be taken for granted. In 1979 he had another heart attack and although open heart surgery proved temporarily successful there was some doubt whether Morecambe and Wise would perform together again. They did eventually resume, but some of the old sparkle was missing. Morecambe was taken ill again in the autumn of 1983 and he died in May 1984 aged 58.

This left Wise with the difficult task of trying to build a solo career, and it had to be seen whether he could successfully strike out on his own after so long in partnership. He quickly undertook a tour of Australia, saying that he needed to prove something.

Proud of what he had achieved, Wise was anxious to be appreciated as a comic in his own right, and disliked the term "straight man". He was, he insisted, "a song and dance man". What he would have loved most of all was a solo success on Broadway, or a romantic hit record. Both eluded him, but he threw himself into pantomimes and commercials, West End roles, sitcom and talk-show appearances, a part in an American TV show. There was plenty of charity work, too, and he even became the gardening correspondent of the *News of the World*. Without Morecambe, however, as deep down he knew, Ernie Wise was only "half a star".

He suffered a stroke in 1993 and retired on his 70th birthday. A series of strokes and heart attacks followed.

Ernie Wise was married in 1953 to Doreen Blyth, a former dancer. She survives him; there were no children.



Eric Morecambe and Ernie Wise: a happy fusion of contrasting temperaments

PATRICK HERON

Patrick Heron, CBE, painter and critic, died on March 20 aged 79. He was born on January 30, 1920.

For a few years in the late 1950s, St Ives was an important centre of international contemporary art. A group of adventurous and experimental artists, including some born locally, were stimulated by its climate and geography as well as by the sympathetic company. Aware of what was going on in Paris and New York, they nevertheless relished the personal support that an artists' colony can provide. In this artistic climate of self-respect and self-confidence, stimulus and freedom, Patrick Heron was a key figure, both as a painter and as a theorist.

In the end St Ives — like Paris — could not compete with the aggressive promotion of postwar American art, and was soon displaced by New York as the centre of contemporary painting (an idea perhaps believed more in Europe than in America itself). But that in no way invalidates the art made in the Cornish harbour town. Whatever the ultimate judgment on Heron's own paintings of vibrant colour, he was undeniably vigorous in maintaining that self-respect and self-confidence in subsequent years, when the St Ives school had disintegrated and the pressure on art students to "paint American" was intense. In doing so, he gave vital moral and artistic support to many British artists setting out on their careers.

Yet there was nothing insular in Heron's outlook, quite the reverse. In a career lasting some sixty years, he never wavered in his belief that colour should be "both the subject and the means, the form and the content, the image and the meaning" of his art. That was not a recipe for easy success in an English art world which had sometimes behaved — and still behaves — as though serious painting comes only in shades of brown, and where "decorative" is a term of rare abuse. In the best of his own zestful canvases, and in his many eloquent essays on the European and American painters he admired, Heron was a persuasive champion for a warmer, more vital, most unBritish kind of art.

Patrick Heron was born in Headingley, Leeds, and educated variously at St Ives, Welwyn Garden City, and St Georges, Harpenden. His father was a textile manufacturer who in 1929 founded Cresta Silks. Paul Nash, Cedric Morris and other artists designed scarves and fabrics for the firm, as did Patrick from 1934 onwards. Thus strong, clear, flat colour, and a decorative sense more French than English, were familiar to him from boyhood; and from the age of five to nine, when the family lived in West Cornwall — Newlyn, Lelant and St Ives — the strong light and clear colours of the region offered a natural reflection of the printed fabrics. The winter of 1927-28 was spent at Eagles Nest, Zennor, where Patrick made his first drawings at the age of seven; the house was subsequently to become his home from 1956.

Heron enrolled at the Slade School of Fine Art as a part-time student from 1937 to 1939 but did not complete the course. During the war, as a conscientious objector, he worked as an agricultural labourer from 1940 to the end of 1943 (when his health deteriorated). But then Bernard Leach, the potter whose St Ives pottery was short-staffed, persuaded the authorities to release two ex-art-student conscientious objectors to help him. Heron and Dick Kendall were allocated to him, and Heron worked at the pottery from January 1944 to April 1945. There he met and made friends with artists including Barbara Hepworth and Ben Nicholson, Naum and Miriam Gabo, Adrian Stokes, John Wells and Sven Berlin.


Patrick Heron with the stained glass window he designed for the Tate Gallery, St Ives, 1996

Marrying in 1945, Heron moved to London and resumed painting. He showed at the Redfern Gallery from 1947 to 1958; it was at this gallery that he had seen Matisse's painting *The Red Studio*, which he said was for him the most influential single painting of his career. His own style, however, was at the time more on the lines of the later work of Georges Braque (whom he visited in 1949): a modified Cubism where many spatial glimpses of various facets of a scene are defined and linked by a flowing framework of continuous lines: though the colour was generally stronger and nearer to that of Matisse. A typical example of this period is *Harbour with Two Figures: St Ives* from July 1950, now in the Tate Gallery's collection. From 1947 to 1955 Heron rented a studio-cottage on the sea wall at St Ives.

At the same time he had begun writing art criticism: from 1943 to 1947 in the *New English Weekly*, and then regularly from 1947 to 1950 in the *New Statesman and Nation*. He became an influential voice, much appreciated by artists, who enjoyed the unfamiliar luxury of art criticism by a practising artist. His own painterly inclinations at this time are evident in his choice of subjects for criticism, and in the strength of his intuitive response to their work: he wrote important articles on Picasso, Leger, Matisse, Rouault, Vlaminck, Bonnard, Braque. He was also influential in introducing the St Ives artists to a wider public, with articles on Bernard Leach, Peter Lanyon, Ben Nicholson, Bryan Winter, Roger Hilton and John Wells. Heron was eventually dismissed as regular critic for using the concept "pictorial space" too often.

In 1952, the year Heron had a retrospective exhibition touring the North of England from Wakefield, he began to experiment with more "abstracted" painting. (He differentiated between abstracted — taken from nature — and abstract, which he considered a false term, more correctly rendered as non-representational.) However, it was not until 1955 — when he wrote *The Changing Forms of Art*, curated an exhibition of five figurative and five abstract painters at the Hanover Gallery under the title *Space in Colour*, and became London correspondent for the New York magazine *Arts* (a post he held until 1958) — that he properly took up abstraction, notably in *Autumn Garden* of 1956 inspired by Eagles Nest, and featured by Sir Herbert Read in his *Critic's Choice* exhibition of that year.

In 1957 he painted the first of his horizontal stripe paintings, which he always regarded as predating those of the Americans such as Kenneth Noland and Morris Louis. These were first shown in an influential exhibition, *Metavisual, Tachiste and Abstract Painting in England* at the Redfern Gallery in 1957, the first show to reflect the impact of the American Abstract Expressionists shown at the Tate the year before, when they had stunned many British artists with their scale, their originality, their simplifications and their inventive daring. Heron came to know personally most of the leading American artists, and their leading theorist Clement Greenberg, though he was to be a far from uncritical admirer of their work.

Heron's stripe paintings were followed by rectangular patterns of verticals and horizontal which he himself called "fractured tartan". Then in 1958 — when he took over Ben Nicholson's large studio at Porthmeor — the rectangles, along with discs of colour, began to float like islands of colour in seas of colour; the colours took on the radiant, saturated intensity of Matisse's collaged cut-paper paintings, but the borders between the colour areas were less defined, and sometimes jagged with hints of Cornish landscape about them; Heron called them "wobbly hard-edge".

As the years went by and new art movements sprang up, Heron's contribution to artistic debate, once he had given up regular criticism, was of necessity through his own paintings; though he reverted to print from time to time to take vigorous issue in letters and articles on vital matters such as art education, or threats to his beloved Cornish coastline.

"It is obvious," he wrote in the 1960s, "that colour is now the only direction in which paintings can travel." He found the format of floated colour which he had evolved a sufficient vehicle for the continuing investigation of colour sensations, only moderating this in the 1980s when he took up the subject of gardens again, employing first a more detailed, meticulous style, and later a much freer — and more appealing — gestural and calligraphic approach.

If Heron's work was often undervalued or overlooked by those who subscribed to the latest artistic fashion, his self-confidence was unaffected. There were undoubtedly years when he wrote much more about other people's painting than anyone wrote about his own. This was not an indication of decreasing effectiveness, however: the paintings he made around 1972, for instance, though out of step with much of the art of the time, are among the best of all his work; and the exuberant canvases he produced in his very last years could stand comparison with anything he had done.

In the ideal museum of 20th-century art, his best colour paintings will be on the wall between those of Matisse and those of the Americans Mark Rothko, Ellsworth Kelly, Kenneth Noland and Barnett Newman — with the German Expressionist Emil Nolde not too far away. And there they will continue to sing.

Patrick Heron had retrospective exhibitions at the Whitechapel Gallery in 1972 and at the Barbican in 1985. Another, his biggest, was held at the Tate Gallery last year, and a volume of his selected writings on art was published to accompany the exhibition. He was appointed CBE in 1977, and served as a trustee of the Tate Gallery from 1980 to 1987.

Patrick Heron married in 1945 Delia Reiss; she died in 1979. There are two daughters of the marriage.

LORD GILLMORE OF THAMESFIELD

Lord Gillmore of Thamesfield, GCMG, Permanent Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and Head of the Diplomatic Service, 1991-94, died of cancer on March 20 aged 64. He was born on August 16, 1934.

David Gillmore had an unusual diplomatic career. It was, for one thing, strangely truncated; he first joined the Diplomatic Service at the age of 36, more than ten years later than his peers, and left it promptly on his 60th birthday. On his way to the permanent secretaryship he held none of the service's most glittering ambassadorships, making his name instead mainly in London, in the arcane world of defence and security policy. And he became Permanent Secretary only when the Prime Minister of the day, Margaret Thatcher, overruled the nomination of another and Gillmore was brought in instead. All these apparent disadvantages were triumphantly overcome.

David Howe Gillmore was the son of an Air Force officer. He was educated at Trent College and at King's College, Cambridge. When he came down he went to work in turn for Reuters, for a French corporation in Paris, and for four years as a teacher in London. Along the way he took time out to publish a novel, *A Way from Exile*. It was 1970 before he joined the Diplomatic Service.

He had a lot of ground to make up. Contemporaries had been learning the ways of diplomacy and of the most idiosyncratic of the great departments of state since their early twenties. Gillmore brought to the task a knowledge of the wider world, perfect French, a capacity for sustained hard work and a markedly straightforward and genial personality. After two years in the Foreign Office he was posted to Moscow and from there, after three years, to Vienna. He went there on promotion to the rank of counsellor at the age of 41, much the same age at which he might have attained it had he joined the service in his early twenties.

He went to join the British delegation to the Mutual and Balanced Force Reducation negotiations. The purpose of these talks was to reach agreement on lower levels of armed force deployments in Europe by both sides in the Cold War. It was a complex, frustrating and apparently interminable business of trying to weigh tanks against artillery, strike helicopters against anti-tank guns and new technology against waves of Warsaw Pact infantry. It demanded endless patience, as much with allies as opponents, a grasp of theory and technicality alike, and a sharp eye for chicanery. It was in Vienna that Gillmore first became involved in the defence and security policy issues in which he made his reputation and with which he was engaged for most of his career.

In 1979, at the age of 45, Gillmore was moved back to London to head the Defence Department of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. After three years in the job he was promoted Assistant Under-Secretary of State responsible for the same range of subjects: the minutiae of defence policy, security policy and deterrence. All of them are diabolically complex subjects, blending abstract intellectual theory with life and death practicalities. They demanded of Gillmore intellectual commitment, determination and sustained hard work. They made calls also on his ample supply of human qualities, cementing relations with officials and officers in the Ministry of Defence, in Nato and, very particularly, in Washington.

These were difficult years for the Western alliance. It faced aggressive communist opponents committed to what history has since shown to have been their last fling. At the time the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the continuing build-up of conventional Warsaw Pact forces in Europe and the forward deployment of Soviet intermediate-range nuclear forces represented a real threat to Western security. It aroused in Ronald Reagan's United States an equally boisterous reaction. But Western European governments faced articulate peace movements and great popular fear of war; they held back from warm endorsement of Washington's responses to the Soviet threat. Not for the first time, British policy played a key role in holding the Alliance together. Gillmore had a central part in devising it and selling it in Nato.

In 1983 Gillmore was moved to Kuala Lumpur, to become High Commissioner to Malaysia. It was a less demanding job than those he had held and was to hold in London, but he took it on at a difficult time. The years of easy British-Malaysian relations were over. A sense of insecurity on the one hand and abrasive self-confidence on the other blended strangely in Malaysian policy. Many Malaysians, and particularly their Prime Minister, Dr Mahathir Mohamad, were growing increasingly resentful of the former colonial power. In the commercial field Malaysia committed itself to what seemed a gratuitously offensive policy of "buy British last". Mutual resentments could have spiralled out of control. Gillmore played a large part in ensuring that they did not, and when he left Kuala Lumpur in 1986 the worst of the episode was over.

Gillmore came back to London as a Deputy Under-Secretary, one of the small college of cardinals which, under ministers and the Permanent Under-Secretary, oversees the work of the whole office and keeps global policy cohesive and proportionate. Once again he brought calm judgment, affability and 16-hour days to the task. It was before long an open secret that his next and last job was to be Ambassador to the United Nations, and he used his time in London to round out his knowledge of the world and of the people at the top who made it tick.

But Margaret Thatcher took a hand. She blocked the diplomats' preferred candidate for the post of Permanent Under-Secretary and a high-level reshuffle became necessary. His human and intellectual qualities made Gillmore the obvious candidate for the job and, after brief sabbaticals at Harvard and in Paris, he moved into it in the summer of 1991.

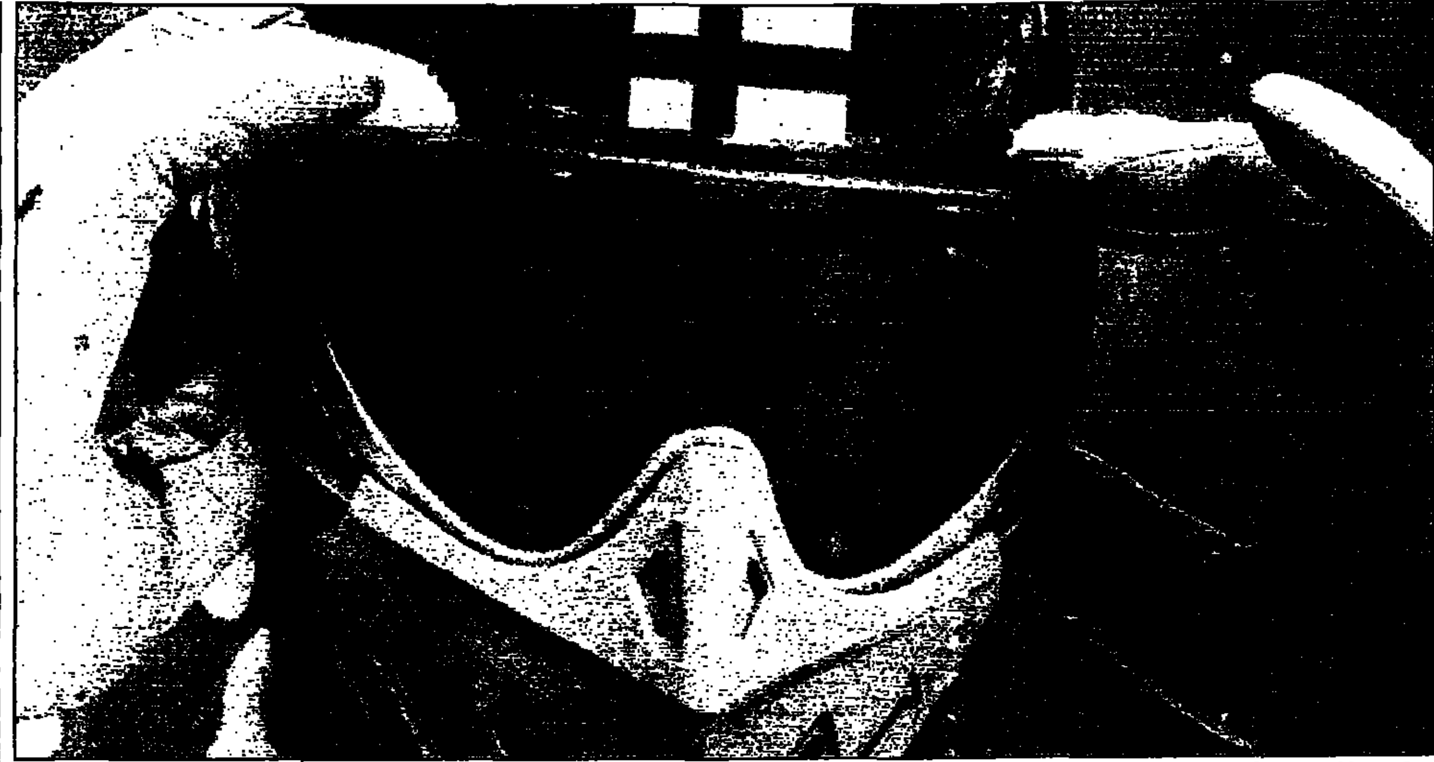
The three years in which Gillmore was Permanent Under-Secretary and Head of the Diplomatic Service were troubled ones for British diplomacy. To general surprise John Major won the 1992 election. His majority was small and his party divided and ill-disciplined. Among the many things that troubled it was uncertainty about Britain's place in the world and in particular its position in the European Union. Foreign policy became increasingly dictated by domestic political convulsions.

Throughout his tenure Gillmore served a very capable Foreign Secretary, Douglas Hurd, but one who was suspected in his own party of being too close to foreigners and the diplomatic world in which he had started his career. The Permanent Under-Secretary's role is uneasy at the best of times. Caught between diplomacy and unusually fractious politics, Gillmore played it with calm aplomb in particularly difficult circumstances.

Satisaction with his performances was marked by his ennoblement on his retirement. (He had been knighted in 1990 and promoted GCMG in 1994.) He was an active member of the House of Lords and involved himself in business, with directorships in banking, insurance and industry. But for all his busyness and success, he and his family continued to live modestly in a small house in southwest London.

He is survived by his wife Lucile (the daughter of a French diplomatic family and, like her husband, a practitioner of 16-hour days), and by their two sons.

THE TIMES TODAY



SRDJAN ZIVULOVIC / REUTERS

The Finnish ski jumper Janne Ahonen reveals his secret weapon — horror eyeballs — for yesterday's World Cup competition in Slovenia

NEWS

Passports for pets by 2001

■ Britain's 100-year-old quarantine rules — the toughest in the world — are to be scrapped within two years for animals imported from "rabies-free" countries.

Nick Brown, the Agriculture Minister, is ready to announce the country's move to a system of "passports for pets", identifying animals by microchip and vaccine record. It could be piloted at some British ports before the end of the year..................Page 1

Milosevic offered one last warning

■ With Serb forces pounding rebel positions in Kosovo, and Nato jets on just a few hours' alert, the American special envoy Richard Holbrooke will deliver a final warning to President Milosevic to halt his aggression or face a bombing onslaught. Mr Milosevic has agreed to the meeting which is due to take place this evening in Belgrade..................Pages 1, 12

Language push
Ministers are planning a classroom revolution to overcome Britons' notorious reluctance to learn foreign languages..............Page 1

Hunt for balloon team
The spirit of William Boot was alive and well in Egypt as newsmen and the Breitling rescue team raced to find the two balloonists at their remote landing spot in the inhospitable Western Desert..........................Pages 1, 4, 5

Fraud fight intensifies
Benefit offices are to be given unprecedented access to people's confidential tax records as the Government's drive against social security fraud intensifies......Page 2

Ernie Wise dies
The stars of stage and screen yesterday paid tribute to the exquisite skills and brilliant timing of Ernie Wise, who has died in hospital...Page 3

Mussolini murder plot
A London man's plot to kill Mussolini was concealed by the Home Secretary and police because of his friendship with the Labour Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald, documents show........Page 6

Pollution shame file
The chemicals giant ICI heads a "Hall of Shame" of 20 companies who are the most flagrant polluters in England and Wales, the Environment Agency will disclose today.................................Page 7

Quest to save sterling
Paul Sykes is selling off large chunks of his £325 million business empire to devote his life and much of his money to trying to save sterling..........................Page 8

Born to greatness
We are all born with the ability to perform astonishing artistic, musical or mathematical feats, according to a new study.....Page 9

Crime mapped out
A "Domesday" style map of crime in England and Wales is being drawn up as part of Jack Straw's drive to curb criminal and anti-social behaviour.......................Page 10

Prodi is EU favourite
The European Union moved closer to endorsing Romano Prodi, the former Italian Prime Minister, for the European Commission presidency..................Page 11

War looms in Zambia
Zambia appears poised to be the latest African nation to be sucked into a war with her neighbours as a spate of bombings and an influx of refugees raise fears of a widening of the civil wars in Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo..........................Page 13

Bears caged for bile
The brochure for the Ruili Dianye factory, where 230 black bears are milked for the bile from their gall bladders, says the animals "enjoy themselves in a comfortable environment"..............Page 14

Ten Commandments for good loving

The Ten Commandments contain answers to relationship problems at the turn of the millennium, a leading Orthodox rabbi claims. The commandments contain as much practical guidance for lovers as many modern self-help books, says Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, who resigned from his north London synagogue after his last book, *Kosher Sex*......................Page 6

BUSINESS

American tax fears: A US tax proposal could cost British companies hundreds of million of dollars in extra taxes and leave them open to punitive fines......................Page 48

Rover subsidy row: The Trade and Industry Secretary may increase the £118 million offer to BMW to secure the future of the Rover plant at Longbridge....................Page 48

Hoddle's windfall: Michael Hardern, the butler who wanted to demutualise building societies for windfall payments, has retired and wants Glen Hoddle to continue his quest..................................Page 48

Poverty brings ingenuity: A report from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation shows how the nation's poorest people have adopted alternative banking methods...............Page 43

FEATURES

Private hell: Should one exam on one January day decide a child's educational fate? Shouldn't schools put as much importance on reports from schools? ....Page 15

Home thoughts: Matthew Williamson draws inspiration for his clothes from the way he decorates his flat..........................Pages 16, 17

FASHION

Fashion diary: While the non-winners come to terms with an Oscarless loo this morning, the real heroes of the event have yet to assess the fruits of their labours...Page 17

13, 17, 25, 29, 45, 49. Bonus: 28
Three people shared Saturday's National Lottery jackpot of £13,422,717

ARTS

The Gloves are off: English National Opera throws down the gauntlet to Covent Garden as it announces 18 new shows in a bold programme for the Coliseum...................Page 18

Best forgotten: In another move, English National Opera unveils a new production of Boito's *Mephistopheles*. But, says Rodney Milnes, the piece doesn't deserve serious staging...Page 18

Toned-down pop: Catatonia delivers *a surprisingly quiet performance* in their Brixton Academy gig, but Cerys Matthews shines in the spotlight..Page 19

Supersonic drama: Jane Coles explores the horror of Heathrow in her futuristic new play, *Low Flying Aircraft*, at the Orange Tree in Richmond..Page 19

Football: Tottenham Hotspur won their first trophy for eight years when they lifted the Worthington Cup after overcoming Leicester City 1-0..............................Page 25, 27

Rugby union: *England's victory over France at Twickenham on Saturday may have been unspectacular*, but at least it confirmed the growing impression that stability is returning to the team..........Page 33

Golf: Despite nearing his 70th birthday, Arnold Palmer is still playing in tournaments and remains one of the great sporting icons of the second half of the century.......Page 34

Ice hockey: Sheffield Steelers ensured that they will finish a troubled season with at least one trophy by beating Nottingham Panthers in the final of the Superleague Challenge Cup................................Page 29

Rugby league: A spirited performance by Hull Sharks made Bradford Bulls battle all the way for an 8-3 victory.................................Page 37

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **ARTS**
From soap to Shakespeare: Kylie Minogue goes legit with the Bard

■ **LAW**
How should society deal with children who kill?

Ten years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, another wall has fallen: the wall which protected the European Commission. It was a wall behind which the Commission became arrogant, impervious to criticism and unanswerable to European citizens. A real government of Europe does not yet exist: the elections to the European Parliament this summer will be our chance to shape one.

La Stampa, Turin

RADIO & TV

Preview: Alexei Sayle presents a new series featuring comedy sketches from the archives on a variety of themes. *You Cannot Be Serious* (BBC2, 9.30pm) **Review:** Paul Hoggart says *Smack the Pony* is "very clever, often surprising and extremely funny"............Pages 46, 47

OPINION

The third test

The euro must work smoothly to the benefit of all and have clear popular support. Elites see a "successful" euro as a stable, relatively strong currency leading to political union. They take the popularity of monetary union for granted. They should not...........................Page 21

Credibility contest

The electors of Newark are destined for considerable analysis. In very different ways this contest represents a test of credibility for both the Prime Minister and the leader of the Opposition................Page 21

Lords of the air

The world paid little attention to Bertrand Piccard and Brian Jones when they lifted off from the Alps 21 days ago. But their nerve, their skill and their good humour have won them the admiration of enthusiasts and rivals alike..........................Page 21

COLUMNS

WILLIAM REES-MOGG
I can remember Oxford leftists who would glibly talk of the need to break eggs if one was to make omelettes. By breaking eggs, they meant killing people..........Page 20

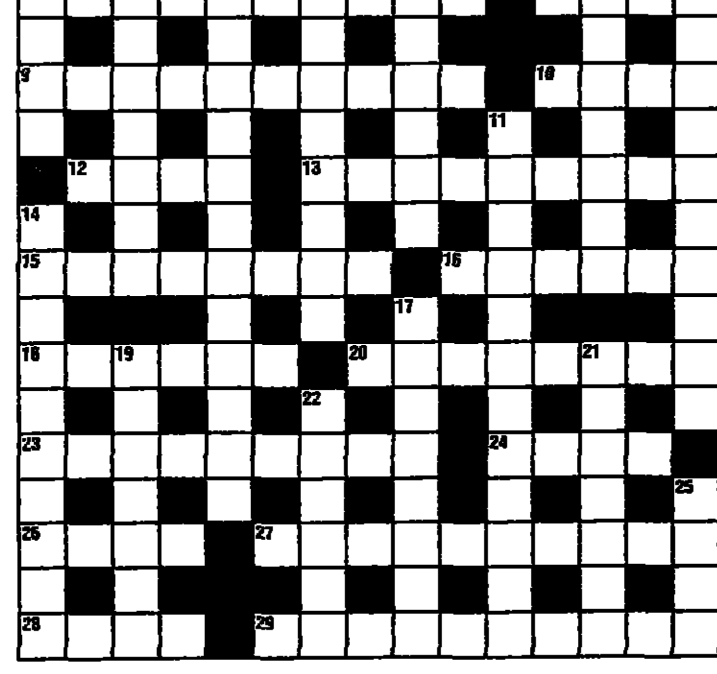
PETER RIDDELL
The spectre of a European superstate can be left to the lurid fantasies of Bernard Connolly. Indeed, the latest furore over the European Commission will further limit grandiose ambitions.....................Page 20

ANNA BLUNDY
Most foreigners visiting Russia leave with an impression of sexual licentiousness, and wonder at the level of personal freedom in a country considered by the West to be averse to pleasure..............Page 20

Ernie Wise, comedian; **Patrick Heron**, painter; **Lord Gillmore of Thamesfield**, diplomat.......Page 23

Concern on GM foods: a "superior alternative" to the A level: racism in the police and legal profession; banana dispute; legal aid changes; women priests.....................Page 21

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,057



ACROSS

1 Way we must protect lives, aware of urban realities (10).
6 Smart blow caught cheek (4).
9 See Western characters disposed to provide inducements (10).
10 Prepare port, perhaps, in Scottish island (4).
12 Stern breed (4).
13 Issue bound to dog cricket side (9).
15 Off balance and not fit enough to lift small weight (8).
16 Man put out about the music sung in church (6).
18 Mission administered by duke after initial hesitation (6).
20 Loudly shows disapproval in military quarters (8).
23 Returned quickly, bearing hot fish (9).
24 There's nobody in this church office (4).
26 Small number given go-ahead for retreat (4).
27 New dress suit tailored for lasting quality (10).
28 The resident patient, for example (4).
29 Tendentious publicity from attorney supporting heathen? (10).

DOWN

1 Some possess a short strip of cloth (4).
2 Midshipmen initially employed in adverts (7).
3 Giving consideration to receiving guests (12).
4 Pale fellow pinches pound without motive (8).
5 Way an air force acquires energy for bombardment (6).
7 One's in Irish county, behaving like a yob (7).
8 Person with mates in a number of unions (10).
11 Fully functional, like early morning joggers (2,3,7).
14 Note from police officer shot in the arm (10).
17 Curtain in theatre where doctor is involved in dorsal surgery (8).
19 Rowdy old American trio unexpectedly appearing first (7).
21 Anxiety shown when final part of musical performance is changed (7).
22 The question of substance, as distinct from form (6).
25 A lot of the world seeing second half of Disney movie (4).

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 21,056 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

Times Two Crossword, page 48

INFORMATION

Latest Road and Weather conditions

UK Weather - All regions	0336 444 910
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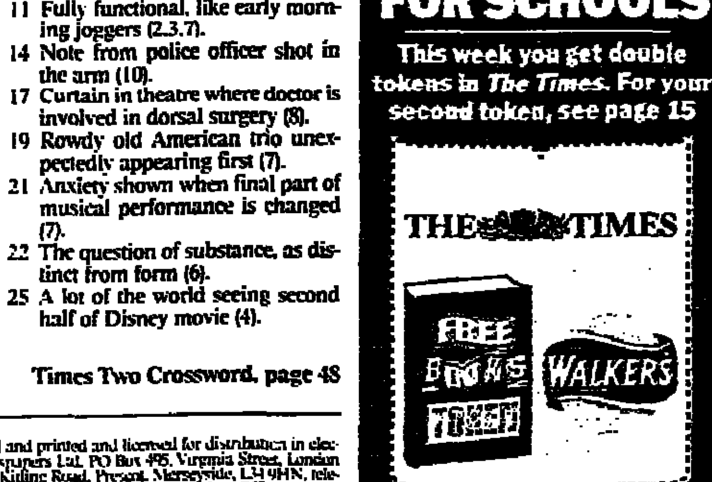
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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 5.59 am
Sun sets: 6.16 pm
Moon sets: -
Moon rises: 8.51 am
First quarter March 24th
London 6.16 pm to 5.57 am
Bristol 6.26 pm to 6.07 am
Edinburgh 6.30 pm to 6.09 am
Manchester 6.25 pm to 6.06 am
Penzance 6.38 pm to 6.20 am



☐ **General:** England and Wales will be bright for a while, but rain will push across most areas through the afternoon. More rain in Scotland and Northern Ireland.
☐ **London, SE, E England, E Anglia, E Midlands:** early showers, then sunshine, rain later. Fresh NW wind. Max 10C (50F).
☐ **Cent S England, W Midlands:** sun then rain. Moderate NW wind. Max 10C (50F).
☐ **Channel Islands:** bright. Moderate NW wind. Max 10C (50F).
☐ **SW England, S Wales:** bright at times Moderate NW wind. Max 10C (50F).
☐ **N Wales, NW, Cent N, NE England, Lakes, IoM:** largely cloudy with rain. Moderate NW wind. Max 9C (48F).
☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen:** largely cloudy, heavy rain this afternoon. Moderate NW wind. Max 7C (45F).
☐ **SW Scotland, Glasgow:** rain, heavy for a while. Moderate NW wind. Max 9C (48F).
☐ **Cent Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland:** rain. Moderate NW wind. Max 8C (46F).
☐ **Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** bright, then rain. Moderate NW wind. Max 7C (45F).
☐ **N Ireland:** rain. Moderate NW wind. Max 10C (50F).
☐ **Republic of Ireland:** showery rain. Wind fresh W. Max 11C (52F).
☐ **Outlook:** tomorrow milder and sunnier in most areas but rain over Scotland, W parts of N Ireland, N England and Wales. Rain across most areas on Wednesday.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gales; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F	
Aberdeen	3.0	0.06	9	48	sh	Kinloss	2.1	0.04	10	50	r
Anglesey	5.5	0.10	11	52	sh	Leeds	2.5	0.18	10	50	sh
Aspatria	2.4	0.44	11	52	sh	Lerwick	0.9	0.27	7	46	r
Aviemore	2.0	0.44	8	46	r	Leuchars	1.9	0.16	11	52	sh
Belfast	6.1	0.17	11	52	sh	Littlehampton	3.1	0.13	12	54	sh
Birmingham	2.0	0.28	9	48	sh	London	1.9	0.15	12	54	r
Bognor R	3.8	0.19	12	54	sh	Lowestoft	1.7	0.37	10	50	r
Bristol	3.3	0.09	11	52	b	Manchester	0.1	0.32	9	48	sh
Buxton	0.2	0.78	6	43	sh	Morecambe	1.8	0.45	10	50	du
Cardiff	5.2	0.20	11	52	sh	Newcastle	1.4	0.11	8	46	r
Clacton	3.0	0.28	10	50	r	Newquay	6.4	0.02	10	50	s
Colwyn Bay	1.1	0.25	9	48	r	Norwich	1.9	0.43	10	50	h
Cromer	2.7	0.22	10	50	sh	Oxford	2.1	0.19	11	52	sh
Eastbourne	2.9	0.17	11	52	sh	Penzance	6.1	0.05	13	55	s
Edinburgh	2.1	0.23	12	54	sh	Poole	3.5	0.05	14	57	s
Eskdalemuir	3.0	0.66	9	48	sh	Prestatyn	0.1	0.25	9	48	sh
Exmouth	5.7	0.01	11	52	s	Saunton Sands	2.7	0.06	11	52	b
Fishguard	2.3	0.15	9	48	b	Scarborough	-	0.11	7	45	r
Folkestone	1.6	0.27	11	52	t	Shrewsbury	4.3	0.14	9	48	sh
Glasgow	4.7	0.41	13	55	s	Skegness	1.6	0.25	10	50	sh
Guernsey	4.8	0.04	13	55	s	Southport	X	0.36	9	48	r
Hastings	2.8	0.28	12	54	h	Stornoway	0.5	0.28	9	48	sh
Hayling I.	3.3	0.10	12	54	sh	Swanage	5.5	0.05	13	55	sh
Herne Bay	1.1	0.21	11	52	r	Teignmouth	7.3	0.01	12	54	s
Hove	1.6	0.13	12	54	c	Tenby	X	0.10	12	54	s
Hunstanton	1.2	0.19	9	48	sh	Tiree	7.7	0.44	9	48	sh
Isle of Man	5.8	0.13	10	50	sh	Torquay	8.2	0.01	13	55	s
Jersey	4.2	0.11	12	54	r	Weymouth	4.5	0.08	12	54	sh

YESTERDAY: highest day temp: Poole (Dorset) 14C (57F); lowest day max: Buxton (Derbyshire) 6C (43F), most rain: Capel Curig (North Wales) 0.90in; most sun: Torquay (Devon) 8.2hr

ABROAD

	C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	14	57	s	Cologne	6	43	f	Madrid	17	63	s	Rome	12	54	f
Akrotiri	19	66	s	C'phegn	6	43	c	Majorca	18	64	s	R'nldsway	10	50	f
Alex'dria	20	68	s	Corfu	13	55	c	Malaga	17	63	s	Salzburg	8	46	s
Algiers	19	66	s	Dublin	9	48	c	Malta	10	50	f	S Frisco	10	50	r
Amst'dm	8	46	f	Dubrovnik	11	52	s	Melbourne	18	64	c	S Paulo	X		
Athens	13	55	f	Faro	21	70	s	Mexico C	24	75	s	Seoul	8	46	f
Bahrain	23	73	s	Florence	10	50	s	Miami	26	79	s	Singapore	31	88	f
Bangkok	37	99	s	Frankfurt	9	48	f	Milan	12	54	s	Stockholm	6	43	s
Barbados	29	84	s	Funchal	18	64	s	Montreal	2	36	f	Strasb'rg	9	48	c
Barcelona	17	63	s	Geneva	8	46	f	Moscow	0	32	sn	Sydney	24	75	f
Beijing	4	39	c	Gibraltar	18	64	s	Munich	7	45	f	Tangier	19	66	s
Beirut	25	77	f	Helsinki	3	37	c	Nairobi	25	77	f	Tel Aviv	25	77	c
Belgrade	4	39	f	Hong K	27	81	sh	Naples	10	50	f	Tenerife	23	73	s
Berlin	7	45	c	Innsbruck	8	46	f	N Delhi	29	84	s	Tokyo	17	63	r
Bermuda	22	72	f	Istanbul	8	46	r	N York	7	45	s	Toronto	3	37	c
Biarritz	12	54	c	Jeddah	32	90	s	Nice	13	55	s	Tunis	14	57	f
Bordeaux	13	55	s	Jo'burg	23	73	f	Oslo	5	41	f	Valencia	21	70	s
Brussels	9	48	f	L Palmas	23	73	s	Paris	10	50	f	Vanc'ver	9	48	s
Budapest	7	45	s	Le Tquet	8	46	f	Perth	25	77	c	Venice	10	50	s
B Aires	23	73	c	Lisbon	19	66	s	Prague	8	46	s	Vienna	8	46	s
Cairo	30	86	s	Locarno	9	48	s	Reykjavik	-1	30	c	Warsaw	7	45	s
Cape Tn	23	73	f	L Angeles	15	59	f	Rhodes	16	61	f	Wash'ton	12	54	s
Chicago	4	39	s	Luxembg	6	43	c	Rio de J	25	77	f	Wellngton	21	70	X
Ch'church	19	66	X	Luxor	4	39	c	Riyadh	28	82	s	Zurich	4	39	r

Temperatures at midday local time on Friday X = not available

TODAY

MODERATE

Changes to the chart below from noon: high A declines as high N edges east, its central pressure little changed; low I deepens slightly as it moves slowly southeast; low F also deepens and migrates swiftly towards Schleswig-Holstein

Warm front
Cold front
Occluded front

HIGH TIDES

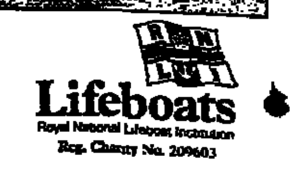
TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	4:20	4.1	16:38	4.3	Liverpool	2:03	9.4	14:26	9.5
Avonmouth	10:19	13.2	22:35	12.7	London Bridge	4:42	7.4	17:13	7.0
Belfast	1:54	3.4	14:18	3.5	Lowestoft	0:04	2.6	12:39	2.3
Cardiff	10:05	12.2	22:21	11.7	Margate	2:45	4.9	15:22	4.6
Devonport	8:52	5.4	21:13	5.2	Milford Haven	9:22	6.9	21:42	6.6
Dover	1:49	6.8	14:15	6.5	Newquay	8:16	6.9	20:37	6.8
Dublin	2:26	4.0	14:51	4.2	Oban	8:47	3.8	20:51	3.6
Falmouth	8:23	5.2	20:44	5.0	Penzance	7:42	5.5	20:03	5.2
Greenock	3:27	3.4	15:48	3.5	Portland	10:09	2.0	22:22	1.9
Harwich	2:41	4.2	15:09	4.0	Portsmouth	2:17	4.7	14:37	4.6
Holyhead	1:07	5.5	13:32	5.6	Shoreham	2:12	6.4	14:22	6.2
Hull (Albert D)	9:19	8.6	21:38	8.8	Southampton	1:40	4.7	14:03	4.5
Ilfracombe	9:07	9.2	21:24	8.8	Swansea	9:25	12.2	21:47	11.8
King's Lynn	9:20	6.8	21:36	6.9	Tees	6:50	9.9	19:08	10.0
Leith	5:40	5.4	18:01	5.5	Walton-On-Naze	2:33	4.3	15:02	4.1

All times GMT Heights in metres

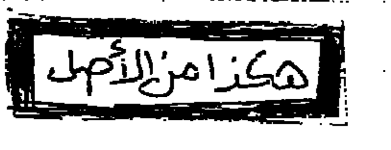
RNLI RESCUE UPDATE – 22 MARCH 1999



Total number of lives saved so far this year:	47
Total number of lifeboat launches so far this year:	292
Cost to RNLI per day:	£222,000
Cost to taxpayer:	£0
To make a donation, telephone:	0800 543210



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هكذا من الأصل

UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT

Whipping boy
The trials of Tony McCoy
Page 38

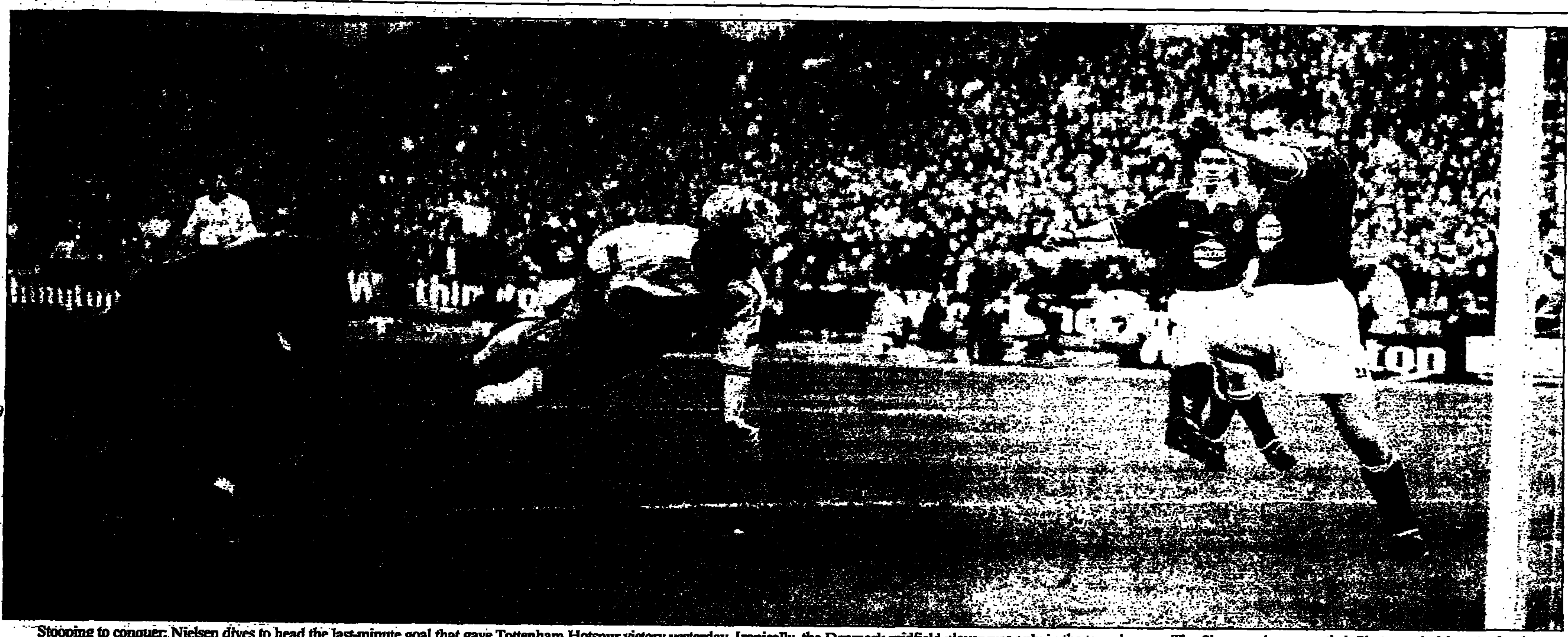
PLUS a chance to meet MICHAEL OWEN Page 28

Teenage kicks
Wilkinson and the grand design
Page 33

TIMES SPORT

15 PAGES

MONDAY MARCH 22 1999



Stooping to conquer: Nielsen dives to head the last-minute goal that gave Tottenham Hotspur victory yesterday. Ironically, the Denmark midfield player was only in the team because Tim Sherwood was cup-tied. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Tottenham complete Graham's revival

Oliver Holt watches Leicester City succumb 1-0 in the Worthington Cup final at Wembley

THIS was not a day for David Ginola. He was blown away in the tempest that raged around Wembley and made the flags crack and curl. This was a day for more prosaic talents and once it came down to grit and graft and the sheer unquenchable desire to win, then the team managed by George Graham was always going to have the edge.

This scrappy win in the Worthington Cup final, this victory of ten men over 11, bore his hallmark. This Tottenham Hotspur side has his personality stamped all over it. In past times, Spurs would have folded under the attritional assault that Leicester City subjected them to. Folding was what they were all about. Not any more.

They had Justin Edinburgh sent off in the 63rd minute for aiming a slap at Robbie Savage when Leicester had already established a measure of supremacy, but still they did not buckle. In fact, they began to recover. Then, when the match was deep in injury time, Allan Nielsen, a Dane who was only in the side because Tim Sherwood was cup-tied, raced the length of the pitch to be in the right place when Kasey Keller spooned Steffen Iversen's cross-shot into his path and stooped to nod the ball over the line.

Now, just seven months after Graham took over a club that was in patent disarray after the combined mismanagement of Alan Sugar and Christian Gross, he has led them back into Europe for the first time in seven years.

Already, they are a team in their master's image. There is the promise of more to come, too. Graham won this competition in his first season in charge at Highbury in 1987 and went on to lift five more trophies in the next six years of his reign at Arsenal. Spurs, remember, are also only one step away from an appearance in the FA Cup Final.

When Graham walked up the steps at Wembley yesterday, took his place in the line of players kissing the cup and lifting it to the heavens, it also marked the end of his rehabilitation after the financial scandal that surrounded his departure from Arsenal. He repaired his reputation at Leeds United and transformed them into a club capable of challenging for honours. It needed a win, though, to get him back into the big time and that was what his players earned him against Leicester.

They did it his way. They won 1-0, of course, and not through the flair of Ginola, who was marked out of the game by the outstanding Robert Ullathorne.

They won it because of the determination of men such as Steffen Freund, who celebrated at the end with the abandon of a man who had never won even a copper trinket, not a decorated player who has lifted the European Cup.

Above all, though, they won it because of the excellence of their defence, the way that Sol Campbell and Ramon Vega, who has reinvented himself as a competent centre back, snuffed out the threat of Emile Heskey and Tony Cottee.

They and the rest of the Spurs team hung in there when the odds were against them. Once, they might have been easy meat for practised giantkillers like Leicester, but yesterday Martin O'Neill's team found that the tables had been turned on them. Suddenly, they were favourites but they were playing against a team of furies. For Leicester, there was only misery. Cottee, who has never won a winner's medal, broke down in the arms of his manager. The rest slumped to the turf.

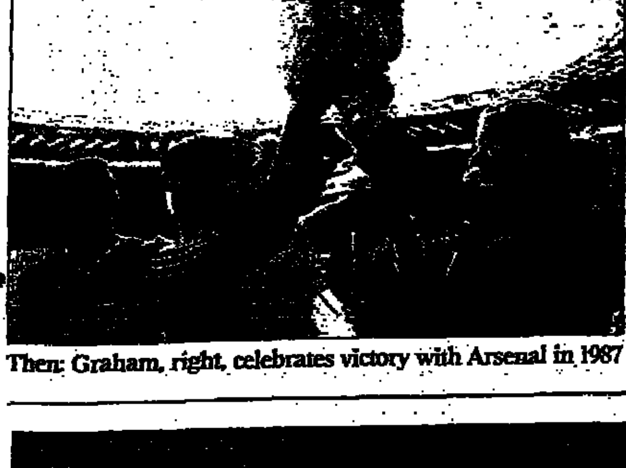
Graham was understated afterwards. He has made it plain that he has loftier ambitions, that the thought of the championship is what drives him on. His hope, though, was that this victory would help his team move on to greater things. "It is always nice to win a trophy, especially at Wembley," Graham said. "It is always good coming back here. The place has an aura. I was pleased with the way my team played. Funnily enough, I thought we looked very good with ten men. It would not have bothered me if the match had gone into extra time. I still expected to win.

"I didn't think I would win anything in my first season here, but I have got nothing but admiration for the players. They have really knuckled down. I hope this gives them an appetite for more.

"There were too many good players here who looked as though they were going to go through their career without winning anything. I hope this has given them a taste of what success is like."

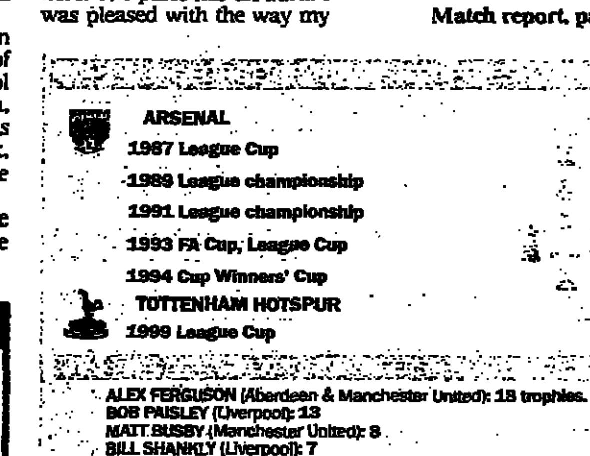
Ninety minutes after the game, when dusk had fallen and Wembley was deserted, Graham led his team across the pitch towards the Royal Box and the exit where their team coach waited. Darren Anderton pointed up some steps and said that was the way out but Graham went in another direction. The rest of the team, in blazers, shirts and ties, followed him out.

Match report, page 27



Then: Graham, right, celebrates victory with Arsenal in 1987

ON OTHER PAGES



ARSENAL
1987 League Cup
1989 League championship
1991 League championship
1993 FA Cup, League Cup
1994 Cup Winners' Cup

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR
1999 League Cup

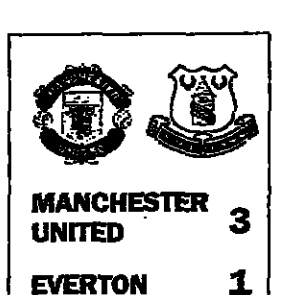
ALEX FERGUSON (Aberdeen & Manchester United): 18 trophies.
BOB PAISLEY (Liverpool): 13
MATT BUSBY (Manchester United): 8
BILL SHANKLY (Liverpool): 7
DON REVIE (Leeds United): 7
GEORGE GRAHAM (Arsenal & Tottenham Hotspur): 7



Now: 12 years on, a triumphant Graham lifts the Worthington Cup at Wembley yesterday

FA Carling Premiership: Weakened leaders end Everton's resistance with second-half surge

United are ready to reserve best until last



MANCHESTER UNITED 3
EVERTON 1

by Kevin McCarra

A SURPRISED Old Trafford bubbled, in the second half, with the merriment of people discovering that rationing has just been abolished. Until then, they might have expected another afternoon of stern, if productive, measures. Manchester United, the leaders of the FA Carling Premiership, occasionally grade their games, allocating just enough flair and energy to overcome the weaker teams.

This match yesterday appeared to have been cut from the same pattern as victories over Derby County and Southampton, in which deliberately weakened line-ups failed to score in the first half, before scrambling success after the interval. It was not even clear that United would enjoy that degree of effectiveness. With Roy Keane and Paul Scholes suspended, and Ryan Giggs injured, Alex Ferguson, the United manager, also chose to omit Denis Irwin.

Even minimalism can run to excess and United were running a risk. Those regulars who remain in the team in this situation must function, because there are too few established men around them to compensate for any lapse. For a long time, United's expertise was not operational. The deficit in performance could be glimpsed when someone such as David Beckham, the virtuoso of the cross, hit the first defender as he tried to deliver the ball.

So great are the reserves of talent, though, that United are always likely to tap it at some point. In this case, Dwight Yorke, the leading scorer, turned himself into an accomplice as others burgled the goals from a defence that had been well-secured. His work as a provider had, curiously, been less impressive when he was drifting behind the attack.

At the interval, Ferguson restored his partnership with Andy Cole and tucked Ole Gunnar Solskjaer on the left wing. The Norwegian, nonetheless, was not at all isolated from impact. After 54 minutes, Yorke was the pivot in the one-two that took Solskjaer through to drive across Thomas Myhre. It was his sixteenth goal in a season in which he has started just 14 games.

The Everton goalkeeper was then seen squabbling with the men in front of him, but any offence was venial when compared with Myhre's failings for the second goal. Yorke, in the 63rd minute, struck a studied pass into the right of the penalty area. Myhre was expected to be first to it and, even had he elected to remain on his line, he would have been safe, so acute was the angle for the advancing Gary Neville.

As it was, he did not collect and the full back, beating him to the ball, squeezed a shot into the untended net. Neville had not scored for almost two years, but, then again, he is rarely abetted in this fashion, either. United would probably have coped without the assistance, even if the scale of the victory might have been reduced.

"We have had a spell of six games in 18 days in which the players have excelled," Ferguson said. "They go off with their countries now, but they will return from that break ready for the challenge."

Giggs, Solskjaer and Beckham are all injured, although, according to Ferguson, the latter has a chance of overcoming a calf strain in time for England's game with Poland on Saturday.

The force with which Beckham established a 3-0 lead might, by itself, have been enough to make a muscle twang. Without a goal since November 4, he studied a free kick hungrily before bending the ball into the top corner in the 66th minute.

"It was good for him to score," Ferguson said. "He has had a little drought, because we can usually count on him for 12 or 14 goals a season."

At Everton, every player is experiencing a famine. No matter how rugged they can look in defence, they are always vulnerable because they cannot transfer the pressure to the opposition by scoring. The resistance shown early in the game was of no comfort to Walter Smith, the manager, who said: "We weren't really getting out of our own half."

It would be glib to invest Ibrahima Bakayoko's early hamstring injury with significance. The forward has too rarely been relevant, even when in perfect health.

Don Hutchison did find the net with a booming free kick in the 71st minute, but, at that stage, the audience was more absorbed in considering Jonathan Greening, a lively substitute, who was twice close to scoring for United. Everton will have to give opponents food for thought before they can nourish their hopes of staying in the Premiership.

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-3-1-2) P Schmeichel — G Neville, J Stam, H Berg, P Neville — D Beckham (sub J Greening, 70min), N Butt, R Johnsen — D Yorke — O G Solskjaer (sub J Curtis, 90), A Cole (sub E Sheringham, 67)
EVERTON (4-4-2) T Myhre — D Weir, M Materazzi, C Short, M Ball — J O'Kane (sub F Jeffers, 60), O Dacourt, A Grant, D Unsworth — I Bakayoko (sub D Cadamarteri, 5), D Hutchison
Referee: M Riley



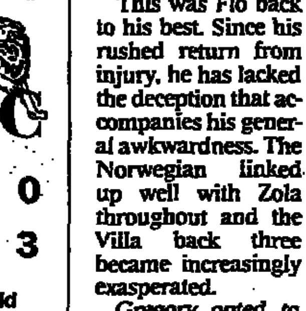
Beckham's fiercely struck free kick made United's victory safe

TONY O'BRIEN / ALLSPORT



Gary Neville takes advantage of a mistake by Myhre, Everton's floundering goalkeeper, to squeeze home the second goal for United

Chelsea rediscover self-belief



ASTON VILLA 0
CHELSEA 3

by Alyson Rudd

THE dip in form was, after all, just a hiccup and Chelsea's title challenge is re-energised — not just because they won at Villa Park yesterday but, having spent all season winning by the narrowest of margins, this result represented a relative goal glut, a sign that confidence is high and the team is hungry.

The peal of bells the local churches promised would accompany this match in protest at the interruption of Sunday services faded before they hit the stadium. What a pity, a little angry clanging would have been most appropriate for Villa, a team in the middle of a real slump. They have taken just one point from 24 and a glory-free mid-table finish beckons. Yet there was no trace of bitterness in John Gregory's words afterwards, although he does seem genuinely perplexed.

The Aston Villa manager is a down-to-earth character with little time for the game's psychology, yet he is being forced to accept that brains are being addled. "My belief was either you can play or you can't play, but obviously the self-belief has evaporated." Gregory's task is made harder by the fact he labels as "chalk and cheese" the attitude on the training ground when compared to that on the pitch.

For the first 45 minutes, however, there was hope. Chelsea appeared set on maintaining their frustrating habit of dominating possession without offering anything incisive. The Villa defence flapped and fluttered, but were let off the hook by a host of near-misses, most notably when Flo's cross-goal pass saw Wise dive a second too late.

Just before the interval Villa finally threatened to undermine Chelsea's unproductive probing when Dublin met Thompson's cross, but De Goey saved with ease. Yet when the teams resumed after half-time, Villa became a parody of their first-half display with the passing yards off target and whenever presented with options, the poorer one was chosen.

It is not Chelsea's style to grab a lucky goal, however many chances Villa presented, and they took the lead in the 59th minute through a glorious move with Ferrer looping the ball down the right flank to Flo, who dragged the ball away from Southgate and then placed it delicately beyond Bosnich's reach.

This was Flo back to his best. Since his rushed return from injury, he has lacked the deception that accompanies his general awkwardness. The Norwegian linked up well with Zola throughout and the Villa back three became increasingly exasperated.

Gregory opted to replace his strike-force, with both Dublin and Collymore making way for Joachim and Merson. Given how every decision relating to Collymore is analysed as to how well or insensitively the Villa manager is handling his troubled forward, bringing him off at the same time as Dublin was the cleverest way to inject some energy into his team's performance. It almost worked, with a rare error from Desailly letting Joachim in with a real chance, although to be fair to the Frenchman few players would have scampered so swiftly after the back-pass. Joachim put his lob just wide, however.

While Chelsea weaved all manner of openings, Zola was most wasteful, and eventually Goldbaek made it 2-0. The Dane had looked more effective the minute Vialli switched him to his favoured right wing, but he deserved the goal for all the energy he expended in Chelsea's cause. Desailly plucked the ball out of a cluster of bodies on the edge of the area and found Flo, who heeded Goldbaek's instruction and played the ball into his feet.

Not since November had Chelsea won by a three-goal margin, but with Villa's confidence ebbing at an alarming rate, Flo scored the visitors' third, latching on to Morris's gentle chip. Whether Flo's first touch was intentional hardly mattered, for it took the ball past Bosnich and made the finish a formality — unlike the destination of the Premiership title, now that Chelsea look sleek once more.

"We approach all our games as if they are finals," Vialli said. In his terms, that does not mean Chelsea go crazy with helter-skelter football, but apply greater self-discipline, something Gregory knows his team needs but cannot find.

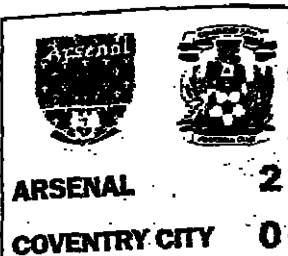
ASTON VILLA (3-5-2): M Bosnich — R Scimeca, G Southgate, G Barry — S Watson, S Stone, L Hendrie (sub: I Taylor, 83min), A Thompson, A Wright — D Dublin (sub: P Merson, 74), S Collymore (sub: J Joachim, 74)
CHELSEA (4-4-2): E De Goey — A Ferrer, M Desailly, F Leboeuf, G Le Saux — D Petrescu (sub: B Lambourde, 78), D Wise, J Morris, B Goldbaek — G Zola, TA Flo (sub: M Nicholls, 90).
Referee: G Barber.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Goldbaek celebrates scoring Chelsea's second at Villa Park yesterday

Kanu runs in on crest of a wave



ARSENAL 2
COVENTRY CITY 0

by Oliver Holt
Football Correspondent

IT ALWAYS seems to be some time around December when Arsenal's performances lull us into writing them off. It is always about now when we stop repenting gently and realise, with a shudder, just how good they actually are.

It happened last season, when age seemed to be catching up with them and they were traipsing off to the South of France for rest-cures — like old men going to take the waters in a spa town. It happened this season, when we beat Arsène Wenger with a stick sharpened with the accusation that he had not strengthened a championship winning side.

As Arsenal, temporarily at least, closed the gap between themselves and Manchester United at the top of the FA Carling Premiership to one point at Highbury on Saturday, Wenger's squad looked every bit as well prepared for the run-in as Alex Ferguson's. This was a second-gear meander for Arsenal.

In the past, Wenger might have introduced Christopher Wreh or Luis Boa Morte into the fray when the legs of the rest got tired. They were limited players. Now, though, Arsenal can call upon the sublime skills of Kanu to help them finish off tottering opponents and, on Saturday, the Nigerian forward performed the task to perfection.

His languor is almost hypnotic, his guile a joy to watch. He has that wonderfully instinctive gift bestowed on only a few: being able to delay a pass until its intended recipient has found space. He makes room for himself effortlessly and the way that he has adapted to the pace of the English game already suggests that not only will he be a more than adequate replacement for Dennis Bergkamp in the Champions' League away matches next season, but he may soon be pressing for a starting place himself.

Sunderland surge on......28
Results and tables......30

After Ray Parlour had given Arsenal the lead in the seventeenth minute with a neat finish with the outside of his right foot, the game had descended into a stalemate. Much of Arsenal's bite disappeared when Parlour moved to right back because of Dixon's injury and Coventry City should have been awarded a penalty when David Seaman, flapping at a low cross from Huckerby, compounded his error by impeding Froggatt. The referee waved play on.

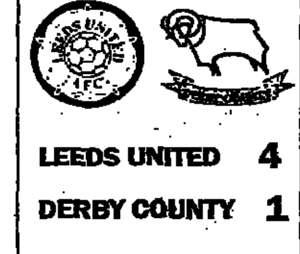
Coventry's misfortunes increased in the second half when Roland Nilsson was taken off on a stretcher with what later transpired to be two cracked ribs and a punctured lung, following an innocent clash with Petit.

Then, with 14 minutes left, Wenger brought on Kanu for Anelka. Anelka stormed down the tunnel in a fit of pique but, within five minutes, Kanu had justified his manager's faith. He pounced on a weak defensive header by Shaw, trapping the ball and turning away from McAllister in the same movement. He slipped it through the legs of Konjic and then prodded it out to the left where Overmars dispatched it across Hedman and into the corner of the Coventry net.

"Sometimes, nobody wants to gamble on players like Kanu," Wenger said, "because they know that, if they get it wrong, they will get a lot of stick. It took a lot of talk and a lot of patience to get him away from Inter Milan. Maybe I should have reacted quicker at the start of the season to bring new people in, but it is important to get players at the right price. What Kanu does is always intelligent and creative. I think it was worth the wait."

ARSENAL (4-4-2): D Seaman — L Dixon (sub: F Ljungberg, 29min), M Keown, T Adams, N Winterburn — R Parlour, P Vieira, E Petit, M Overmars (sub: K Diawara, 84) — N Anelka (sub: Kanu, 76), D Bergkamp.
COVENTRY CITY (4-5-1): M Hedman — R Nilsson (sub: M Edworthy, 70), M Konjic, R Shaw, D Burrows — P Telfer, T Solvedt (sub: S Gioacchini, 76), G McAllister, B Quinn, S Froggatt — D Huckerby
Referee: P Alcock.

O'Leary stays calm as youthful glow surrounds Elland Road



LEEDS UNITED 4
DERBY COUNTY 1

by Kevin McCarra

LEEDS UNITED are the most appealing side in the FA Carling Premiership, even if their charm will be lost on Derby County. Virtues and spectators are crammed into Elland Road, where swift, streamlined football is being produced by a team that contains several exciting young players and is not afflicted by the sort of figures whose self-regard is even more distended than their salaries.

Only one man quibbles. As the manager, discontentment is an obligation for David O'Leary. He stands in the face of those who believe that this side could emulate the achievements of Don Revie's Leeds United side of the early 1970s. Even the greats of that era, like Peter Lorimer, Allan Clarke and Norman Hunter, have gone on record as saying that this team can be as good, if not better, than the one they all played for.

Although outnumbered in the debate, O'Leary remains resolute in declaring the limitations of his side. Another victory will equal the club record of seven consecutive wins in the league, but he would still dismiss it as a trick of the light.

He sees no substance, either, in claims that Leeds can grasp third place in the table and enter the European Cup next season. Satisfaction is too close to inertia for his liking. On Saturday, O'Leary spoke of Manchester United's willingness to spend £10 million or £12 million on players to top up a pool already at a high level of achievement. Although the words emerged fluently, he might have been giving a rendition of a script he had come across while clearing out the desk of his predecessor, George Graham.

In their undemonstrative way, O'Leary and Graham have both tried to apply thumbscrews to the Leeds board. It is the duty of a manager to dream and to aspire while the directors labour over calculations about borrowing, interest payments and the prospect of a return on investment in the transfer market.

If O'Leary speaks in a carefully measured way that only highlights the depth of his feeling, it is because he is tantalised. He could be in possession of an exceptional side, but senses the ease with which it might disintegrate over the closing phase of the season.

Suspensions are unlikely but Stephen McPhail, a slick replacement on Saturday for David Batty, who is unwell, must join the Republic of Ireland party for the world youth championship next month.

"It's a fantastic tournament in Nigeria and we lose him for five weeks. He'll improve over there," O'Leary said, with bitter scorn. He is sure that he needs costly signings this summer. Jim Smith, the Derby manager, applauded Leeds's attacking, but it was possible to flip that statement over and read on the back some reservations about their defending.

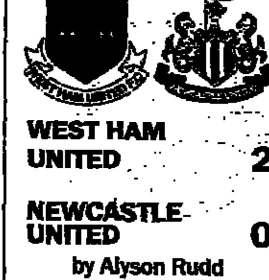
Even so, the heedless tackle on Vassilis Borbokis with which Lucas Radebe conceded a penalty in the second minute, which Francesco Baiano converted, was more aberration than structural fault. Leeds are too confident right now to be stung into anxious retaliation. Instead, they gradually stepped up the pace of their fluent passing and movement.

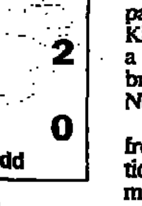
Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink's cross broke from Spencer Prior and, as the centre back lunged in an effort to recover, Lee Bowyer stepped round him to hit the equaliser. Hasselbaink was then set up for the low drive that put Leeds ahead. After 44 minutes, Willem Korsten, who is on loan from Vitesse Arnhem, efficiently killed Hasselbaink's pass and fired home. Six minutes from the end, Ian Harte shook a slumbering second half awake by slamming a 25-yard shot into the top corner.

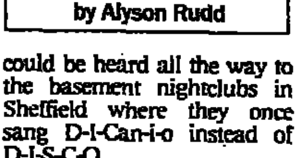
Derby, missing seven players, had been in no condition to break their habit of conceding goals to Leeds, who have relished 15 in the last four meetings between the teams. As O'Leary's plans progress, other wills join Derby in flinching at the sight of Leeds.

LEEDS UNITED (4-3-3). N Martyn — A-I Haaland, L Radebe, J Woodgate, I Harte — L Bowyer, D Hopkin, S McPhail — J F Hasselbaink, H Kewell, W Korsten (sub: M Jones, 88min).
DERBY COUNTY (3-4-1-2) M Poom — I Stimac (sub S Elliott, 40), H Carbonari, S Prior — J Laursen, L Bohinen (sub B Launders, 78), D Powell, V Borbokis — F Baiano (sub M Christie, 46) — K Harper, D Burton.
Referee: M Reed

Redknapp has last laugh as Di Canio weaves spell







WEST HAM UNITED 2
NEWCASTLE UNITED 0

by Alyson Rudd

WHEN it comes to deciding the best buy of the season it may well be that Harry Redknapp steals it with his capture of Paolo Di Canio. Talk about baggage; Di Canio was burdened with a full complement of suitcases, rucksack and naff wallet on a string. As Danny Wilson, the Sheffield Wednesday manager, off-loaded him the "Harry don't do it" doom merchants were in full swing. Di Canio was, by many, considered a shirker, inconsistent, volatile and a liability.

Yet against Newcastle United on Saturday he was tireless, a constant threat, placatory and irreplaceable. Here is a player who, as Redknapp pointed out, had experienced a longer break from football than any player would during the summer's break. This followed his ban after pushing a referee to the ground and his subsequent self-imposed exile.

Possibly the worst place for the Italian striker to re-emerge was Upton Park where so-called difficult players — from Joey Beauchamp to to Marco Boogers — have pouted and departed under a cloud. The sniggering over the fact that Redknapp was prepared to pay £1.6 million for a walking, talking tantrum in tight shorts could be heard all the way to the basement nightclubs in Sheffield where they once sang D-I-Can-I-o instead of D-I-S-C-O.

And now? Redknapp can talk about a player who never stops training and is so patently talented that his manager can smirk and joke: "If he works on his ball control, he'll be a decent player."

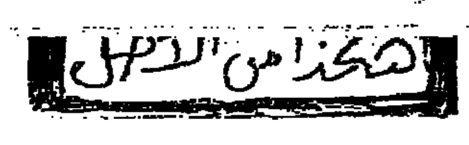
Di Canio gave West Ham the lead, playing to the whistle and not the flag as Paul Durkin, the referee, ignored his assistant, having seen that the ball was played through by Dabizas, and allowed Di Canio to easily round Given who, like his defenders, had seemingly assumed Di Canio was about to be booked for hogging the ball and made little effort to halt his run.

Di Canio slips and slides and over-elaborates, but in this sort of mood is a definite match-winner. He provided Kitson with several inch-perfect crosses that his striking partner wasted. Eventually, Kitson turned and scored after a through-ball by Lampard, brushing aside a dispirited Newcastle defence.

Newcastle were second best from the start, with a formation that Ruud Gullit, their manager, preferred to see as adventurous but was really wasteful. Saha and Maric played behind Shearer but rarely become involved in either attack or midfield and the result was that West Ham were given an easy ride through the centre.

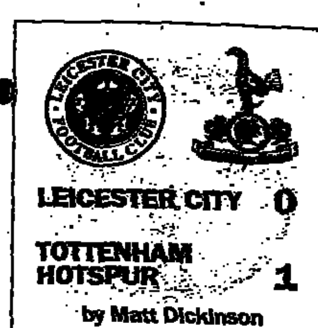
Shearer's present lack of mobility was clear and those who feel Kevin Keegan has been hasty in guaranteeing him the England captaincy will hardly have been heartened by his contribution here, where he was no more than a decent target man with some bite at free kicks.

WEST HAM UNITED (4-4-2) S Hislop — I Pearce, N Ruddock, R Ferdinand, S Minto — F Lampard, S Lomas, M-V Foe, T Sinclair — P Kitson, P Di Canio.
NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-3-2-1): S Given — A Griffin, L Charvet, N Dabizas, D Domi — G Georgiadis (sub: R Lee, 82min), N Solano, G Speed — S Maric (sub: T Ketsbaia, 59), L Saha — A Shearer.
Referee: P Durkin



Worthington Cup final: Leicester lapse allows ten-man Tottenham to claim victory

Nielsen's strike beats the clock



LEICESTER CITY 0
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR 1

by Matt Dickinson

THERE were less than two minutes to go in the Worthington Cup final at Wembley yesterday when Martin O'Neill gestured to his team to run out the clock. His thinking, which made perfect sense at the time, was that, with an extra half-hour, his 11 men could pick off Tottenham Hotspur's tiring ten.

In those circumstances, the Leicester City manager could afford to think of extra time but his defence, critically, could not. Caught without cover, even though they had an extra man on the field, they allowed Steve Walsh to be isolated against a far quicker Steffen Iversen.

It was probably their first defensive mistake of the afternoon and it proved decisive. Bursting into the penalty box, the Norwegian's cross-shot was only parried by Kasey Keller and there was Allan Nielsen to fling himself at the ball. In a flash of Nielsen's blond mane, O'Neill's plans had become obsolete.

It was a dramatic finale that meant most of what had gone before could be forgotten. There have been some disappointing Wembley finals in recent years, but this was surely the worst. It certainly was not the feast of football that the Football League would have wanted to set before Lennart Johansson, the president of Uefa, the European governing body of football that plans to strip this competition of its European place and thus its sole incentive for the big clubs.

The president will be less sympathetic than ever. What began as a competitive game — football-speak for a boring one — degenerated after an hour into an ugly and malicious one. Worse than the bad tackles were the repeated attempts by players to get each other sent off, to the extent that it was almost inevitable that one would eventually walk.

Justin Edinburgh was the man to go for swinging his hand across Robbie Savage's face and, while the contact was not strong enough to leave a scratch, the intent was sufficient to deserve the red card. The Tottenham full back became only the second player to be sent off in a League Cup final after Andrei Kanchelskis's dismissal in 1994.

"It was the worst half-hour of my life after that," Edinburgh said, but it was not a whole lot better for his adversary. Savage, who was booked for the initial clumsy foul, enraged the Tottenham players by theatrically clutching his face and the match briefly turned into a Savage sideshow as Tottenham attempted to exact retribution.

Steffen Freund and Nielsen were particularly vehement in their complaints to the referee, with the German pathetically faking injury in an attempt to con the official. "I was worried that Savage might be sent off," O'Neill said, explaining his decision to substitute the Wales international, and it was a wonder, given the Spurs player's antics, that he was not proved correct.

The irony was that Spurs should play so much better after their reduction to ten men on 62 minutes, but then only a George Graham team could draw such strength from adversity. "The sending-off was probably the turning-point of the game against us," O'Neill said, "because we were totally dominant at the time."

Leicester had just come closest to a goal when Rob Ullathorne had taken a rare break from trailing David Ginola to move forward and unleash a 20-yard drive. Ian Walker had fumbled his shot, just recovering in time to block Tony Cottee.

It was a sign of Leicester's growing dominance as O'Neill's pack of midfield terriers began to get the better of Spurs. Ginola, who was conscientiously marked by Ullathorne all game, had disappeared altogether and O'Neill must have thought that his usual meticulous preparation was to pay off.

His side looked confident of winning this competition for the second time in three years. But the sending-off roused Spurs more than their opponents and, suddenly, they were finding space in midfield that had not existed before. Freund and Iversen began winning the 50-50 tackles. Les Ferdinand began running at defenders and the Spurs back three — in which the excellent Vega made the tackle of the game on Heskey — were controlling the Leicester attack more comfortably than when they were four.

In short, one team was attempting to win the game while the other seemed content to wait for the draw and that made all the difference. So while Spurs now go on to Europe and to an FA Cup semi-final against Newcastle United, Leicester must raise themselves for the fight against relegation. They are only five points above the cut and, while they have a couple of games in hand, their morale will have been badly jolted by this defeat.

Cottee, in particular, looked inconsolable at the final whistle, aware, perhaps, that this may be his last trip to Wembley at the age of 33. O'Neill had warned that defeat here could lead to the break-up of his team and the lack of European football next season will not help him as he attempts to persuade his better players, such as Emile Heskey, that Filbert Street should be their long-term home.

His first task, though, is to resolve a dispute with Frank Sinclair. The former Chelsea defender was sent home from the team hotel yesterday morning for what O'Neill would only describe as a breach of club discipline.

He is believed to have been late for a team meeting, which would seem appropriate. His team failed to play to the watch as well.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): I Walker — S Carr, R Vega, S Campbell, J Edinburgh — D Anderton, S Freund, A Nielsen, D Ginola (sub: A Sinton 90min) — S Iversen, L Ferdinand.
LEICESTER CITY (3-5-2): K Keller — M Elliott, G Taggart, S Walsh — R Ullathorne, R Savage (sub: T Zagorakis, 90), N Lennon, M Izzet, S Guppy — A Cottee, E Heskey.
Referee: T Heilbron

Lynne Truss, page 35
Simon Barnes, page 35



Nielsen kisses the Worthington Cup and clutches his man-of-the-match award after scoring an unlikely winning goal in the final minutes. Photograph: Marc Aspland



'It's always nice to win a trophy Wembley ... the place has an aura'

— George Graham



Edinburgh is sent off after being involved in a fracas with Savage



'The sending-off was the turning point. We were totally dominant at the time'

— Martin O'Neill

Places in Europe still up for grabs

By Bill Edgar

VICTORY in the Worthington Cup final made Tottenham Hotspur the first English club to qualify for European competition next season, but the question of who will join them on the Continent is about as clear as the grey skies around Wembley yesterday.

Three cups may have become two with the demise of the Cup Winners' Cup this summer, but any hopes that matters have been simplified can be forgotten. The confusion centres on the Uefa Cup — which will be explained later.

Despite the apparently growing importance of continental competition to clubs here, England have been promised only six entries, one fewer than this season. It is the elite who are being rewarded, the top three in the FA Carling Premiership going into the Champions' League — one more than this season.

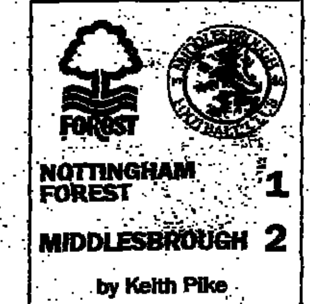
If Manchester United win the European Cup this season, the only way that four English teams will qualify for the competition is if United, improbably, finish outside the top three in the Premiership. The top two go straight into the group stages, while the team finishing third must play in the final qualifying round. Clubs losing in the qualifiers or finishing third in their group stage will then switch smartly to the Uefa Cup.

England have been guaranteed three places there, Tottenham being joined by the winners of the FA Cup and the fourth-placed Premiership side. Uefa have yet to decide what will happen if a team that has already qualified for the Champions' League wins the FA Cup, a feat both United and Arsenal could achieve. If Chelsea finish fourth in the Premiership and win the Cup Winners' Cup, the fifth-placed team would qualify for Europe.

Two further factors will determine Uefa Cup qualification — the Intertoto Cup and fair play tables. Three places will be awarded to teams in each category, and both could supply further English entrants. Uefa has promised England two places in the Intertoto Cup. Those who have showed an interest include Newcastle United, Middlesbrough, Wimbledon, Derby County, Southampton and Leicester City. The two teams finishing the highest in the Premiership will qualify.

The country topping Uefa's fair play table, presently Scotland, will supply one team with the other clubs coming from the two nations that win a ballot of those second to tenth in the table, which, at the moment, includes England. The successful countries must enter the team that tops their own fair play table, at present Manchester United followed by Sheffield Wednesday.

Atkinson fuming as Forest lies in ashes



NOTTINGHAM FOREST 1
MIDDLESBROUGH 2

by Keith Pike

ONE hour after the final whistle and the self-proclaimed Nottingham Forest firefighter was himself still smouldering to the point of self-combustion. RA may be emblazoned on the tracksuit, but not even Red Adair could rescue Forest now, never mind Ron Atkinson.

Poor pitch, poor match, poor Forest. Ten points adrift of safety, eight games to go, no home win since August and the little matter of Leeds United, Liverpool and Derby County in their next three games. All that remains is to dot the 'i' and cross the 't' in the word relegation and Forest's third descent from the FA Carling Premiership in seven seasons will be confirmed.

And then? Atkinson was too consumed with the inadequacies of the present to concern himself about the nuances of the Nationwide League, but the prospects for another swift return from exile seem horribly remote. The club's debts are such that Atkinson, or whoever succeeds him as manager, is thought likely to have to halve the £9 million annual wage bill, while eight members of the first-team squad are out of contract this summer.

It almost goes without saying that Forest enjoyed precious little luck against Middlesbrough, who left the City Ground on Saturday convinced that their own battle against the drop was all but won. Apart from the opening and closing stages, Forest were the better of the two teams, but that is not saying much and, anyway, those were the periods when the points were won and lost. Big Ron had big trouble coming to terms with it all.

"I'm furious," Atkinson said. Between long bouts of brooding silence, the merry quipster sat with fists clenched, humour bypassed and brow so furrowed that you could have planted potatoes in it.

"I thought we were weak-willed in the last half an hour," he said. "The game was there to be won and we didn't show any mental stress at all. We have had to play top-class opposition in our other home games, but with all due respect to Middlesbrough, they were there for the taking." Pause. Sharp intake of breath.

"We are not good enough to gift teams goals." (Crossley blunders with clearance, Ricard holds off Mattsson; 1-0 down.) Pause. "We had the psychological thing of coming back after going behind." (Shipperley heads down, Freedman squeezes shot past Schwarzer from 18 yards; 1-1.) Long pause. "We get a head of steam up in the second half and, all of a sudden, one or two people start doing stupid things." (Chettle misses 87th-minute header, Edwards misses Deane; 1-2, game over.) Protracted, deathly silence. Exit.

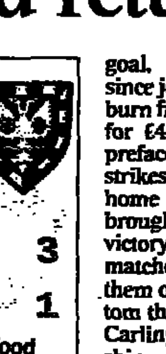
For Middlesbrough, Gascoigne and O'Neill were kept under wraps on the bench as they beat Forest for the first time in 25 attempts. For the home team, Van Hooijdonk excelled in his new, deeper "I will play anywhere if it helps the team" role. What a joke. As punishment, he should be made to stay.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (3-4-1-2): M Crossley — C Edwards, J Mattsson (sub: H Porfirio, 87min), S Chettle — M Louis-Jean, C Palmer, C Bart-Williams (sub: T Bonalair, 74), A Rogers — P Van Hooijdonk — D Freedman (sub: M Harewood, 46), N Shipperley.
MIDDLESBROUGH (3-5-2): M Schwarzer — G Festa, S Vickers, C Cooper — R Stockdale, A Townsend, N Maddison, R Mustoe, D Gordon — H Ricard (sub: M Beck, 58; sub: A Armstrong, 89), B Deane.
Referee: S Dunn



Ron Atkinson: angered

Sutton stakes claim for England return



BLACKBURN ROVERS 3
WIMBLEDON 1

by Stephen Wood

IF Chris Sutton has a heart the size of a dustbin lid, Ashley Ward's should be bigger still. Together, they inspire a club that has experienced much despair this season; they are players who personify the ethos of their manager, Brian Kidd, and upon whose continued excellence Kidd is reliant.

Personal despair, of differing gravity, has also affected Sutton and Ward, the Blackburn Rovers forwards. Sutton, whose commitment to the Ewood Park cause prompted Kidd to evaluate the size of his heart thus, has had to cope with injuries, suspensions and an international exile this season. He has overcome such frustrations, however, with plenty of dignity intact. Niggling thigh and ankle problems were not expected to prevent him from joining the England squad at Bisham Abbey last night and, such was his effective performance against Wimbledon on Saturday, that it would be no surprise if Kevin Keegan, the new England manager, selected him from the start against Poland next weekend.

Ward's crisis was of a more personal nature. Last week, his mother suffered a brain haemorrhage and Ward was told by Kidd that he did not have to play. Kidd said: "When something like that happens, you realise that there is a bigger picture to consider, but Ashley insisted on playing to help our cause. That tells you what a great human being he is." Ward's professionalism was rewarded with a goal, his fourth since joining Blackburn from Barnsley for £4.5 million. It prefaced two other strikes from the home side, which brought their first victory in eight matches and lifted them out of the bottom three of the FA Carling Premiership.

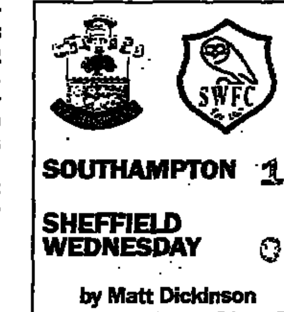
Moments before he left Ewood Park to visit his mother in hospital, Ward said: "Things looked less than rosy this week, but I decided that it was important for me to try and carry on as normal. My mum is gradually getting better and hopefully everything will be OK."

With Sutton and Ward in tandem, Blackburn should avoid relegation and although he failed to score himself, some of Sutton's work with his back to goal, against a Wimbledon defence that veered between the brutal and the non-existent, was outstanding.

Matt Jansen, surely an England player of the future, was on hand to claim the second and third goals as Blackburn's surge secured the match by the 26th minute. Wimbledon were ragged, and John Hartson, their forward, was a personification of this and was substituted at half-time. A Jason Euell goal midway through the second half was their only consolation.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-3-3): J Filan — J McAteer, S Henchoz, D Peacock, C Davidson — D Johnson (sub: K Gillespie, 81min), D Marcolin, J Wilcox (sub: M Taylor, 89) — C Sutton, A Ward, M Jansen (sub: D Duff, 57).
WIMBLEDON (4-4-2): N Sullivan — K Cunningham, D Blackwell, B Thatcher, A Kimble — J Euell, R Earle, N Ardley (sub: C Hughes, 46), M Hughes — J Hartson (sub: E Ekoku, 46), M Gayle.
Referee: G Willard

Southampton ready to build on escape plan



SOUTHAMPTON 1
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY 0

by Matt Dickinson

THEY remain almost unbeatable at home, five wins on the trot there prolonging the belief that Southampton might just yet avoid relegation. So what do the club do on Saturday? Confirm plans to knock The Dell down. Predictably enough, there is no place for sentiment in the decision to move to a shiny new 32,000-seat stadium.

"It is all about getting bums on seats," Dave Jones, the manager, said on Saturday with admirable realism. "That is the reality of football finance now. The Dell holds 15,000 so, at the moment, the only thing we've got in common with Manchester United is that we are both sold out every week."

It was impossible to disagree with the financial logic, but as yet another full house roared Southampton to victory on Saturday, one could not help but reflect wistfully on the ground that has served the club so well for 101 years. The Dell seems to suit the homely little club so well, and while a sparkling new stadium may be essential if they are to compete with the FA Carling Premiership's *nouveau riche*, it will look like delusions of grandeur if they are in the Nationwide League first division by the time the bulldozers arrive.

The fight against relegation will be another agonising one, but Southampton are not yet doomed thanks to a win on Saturday that lifted Jones's team to third from bottom. They had the better of what few chances there were against Sheffield Wednesday, but this was still a far from convincing win, and one fears for Southampton if Arsenal are in the mood when they visit in a fortnight. Emmanuel Petit will be missing for that one, but so too will be Matt Le Tissier, Chris Marsden and Hassan Kachloul because of suspension.

"That's my entire midfield gone," Jones said. It may cost him dear. Such is Southampton's dreadful form on their travels, where they have lost the last five games, that they cannot afford to drop any points in their last four home matches. That may prove a task beyond a rather cumbersome team.

That they managed to win on Saturday was as much to do with Wednesday's sloth as their own good form, with the Wednesday players' kit returning to Yorkshire as clean and fresh as when they first put it on. None of them appeared to break sweat, apart from Benito Carbone, who at least managed a bit of twisting and turning, all of it in vain.

When Le Tissier headed home from close range after 42 minutes, it was presumably because Wednesday could not be bothered to mark him and Southampton could afford to waste a number of second-half chances as Egil Ostenstad headed wide twice. Le Tissier tried a couple of long-range efforts to relieve the torpor, but his radar was slightly on the blink. It was all very predictable stuff, which made Glenn Hoddle's appearance in the crowd all the more unfathomable.

"We could have made it a lot easier for ourselves with that second goal," Jones said. "We look a completely different team at home. Maybe I will have to put the players in a box before we go away from home or make them wear blinkers. I wish we could play all our games at The Dell." If the planning application which goes before the city council next week is successful, Southampton will not be playing any games there in a couple of years. At least they are enjoying it while they can.

SOUTHAMPTON (4-3-1-2): P Jones — J Dodd, C Lundekvam, K Monkou, P Colleter (sub: F Benali, 63min) — M Oakley (sub: J Beattie, 67), C Marsden, H Kachloul — M Le Tissier — M Hughes, E Ostenstad.
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-2): P Srnicek — P Atherton, E Thome, D Walker, A Hinchcliffe (sub: D Stefanovic, 20) — N Alexandersson, D Sonner, W Jonk (sub: R Humphreys, 85), P Rudi — A Booth, B Carbone.
Referee: R Harris

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: SUNDERLAND WIN AGAIN WHILE IPSWICH AND BRADFORD BOOST PROMOTION HOPES

Reid's men remain in rude health

Sunderland 3
Bolton Wanderers 1

By George Caulkin

THE riposte was more deadly than a shot from Kevin Phillips, the directive as taut as a Lee Clark pass. The actual epithet employed by Peter Reid was something the viewers of *Premier Passions* will recall quite clearly, but it would not do well to repeat it here. And all because the Sunderland manager was offered polite congratulations for officially claiming a play-off place.

What for three-quarters of the clubs manfully treading water in the Nationwide League would happily be regarded as a season well spent, is viewed with slant-eyed suspicion on Wearside. The memory of Michael Gray casting a mournful glance into the Wembley sky as his penalty dribbled to Sasa Ilic, the Charlton Athletic goalkeeper, in the play-off final last season is too fresh, too raw for anything else.

"Oh, I'm delighted about that," Reid muttered through faintly gritted teeth. "I'll just go and tell the chairman [Bob Murray]: he'll be really pleased." Murray had compared the tumultuous defeat by Charlton to a death in the family; it is safe to assume that corks were not popping with abandon on Saturday night.

The defeat of Bolton Wanderers on Saturday, the club whose fate is seemingly entwined with a yo-yo string, did feel like a significant staging post, however, and not simply because their manager, Colin Todd, had recently suggested that Sunderland could be overhauled. He has revised that opinion. "Champions elect", he calls them now.

In Reid's hundredth match in charge, Phillips's fiftieth Sunderland goal prodded the team to a post-war record tenth consecutive home league win. They are 12 points clear of the field and, with Carsten Fredgaard, of Lyngby FC, watching from the stands and expected to sign for around £1.5 million this week, his future colleagues displayed the utter ruthlessness that has become their hallmark.

Quite where Fredgaard, a Denmark under-21 midfield player, will fit into Reid's blueprint is another matter. Clark — at present the side's puppeteer — was exceptional for his allotted 58 minutes. His feinting runs and raking long passes delivered the space for others to exploit and though he played no intrinsic role in any of the goals, his was the shadowy influence behind it all.

Sunderland took the lead when a mammoth clearance from Thomas Sorensen was nudged on its way by Niall Quinn and Phillips took the ball into the penalty area where predatory instincts did the rest. Five minutes later Allan Johnston bamboozled a brace of Bolton defenders before a neat deflection made a mug of Jussi Jaaskelainen. Johnston repeated the feat in the second half with a curling shot from 20 yards, negating the threat that briefly had been posed by a goal from Per Frandsen.

Both sides conspired to hit the woodwork but, in front of a record crowd of more than 41,000 at the Stadium of Light, the remainder of the match was played out on autopilot. "There's such a big pot of gold in front of us," Phillips said. But not the play-offs. Never the play-offs.

SUNDERLAND (4-4-2): T Sorensen — C Makin, A Melville, J Craddock, M Gray — N Summerbee, L Clark (sub: D Williams, 58min), K Ball, A Johnston — N Quinn (sub: D Dichio, 72), K Phillips (sub: M Bridges, 83).

BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): J Jaaskelainen — N Cox, M Fish, P Walhurst, R Elliott — M Johansen (sub: A Todd, 64), C Jensen, P Frandsen, S Sellars (sub: R Gardner, 75) — B Taylor (sub: E Gudjohnsen, 75), D Holdsworth.

Referee: A Wiley



Phillips, of Sunderland, celebrates his team's second goal during their 3-1 defeat of Bolton at the Stadium of Light

Jewell shines in priceless clutch

Bristol City 2
Bradford City 3

By David Powell

IF Bradford City are to climb out of the first division, they had better snap out of being a first-half team. That was the message from Paul Jewell, the manager, after a second successive match in which his club, one of the main contenders to cross the bridge from Nationwide League to FA Carling Premiership, had drunk from the cup of hesitation at half-time.

Bradford had conceded the only goal of the second half after going 4-0 up against Norwich City in their previous game. On Saturday, they went in 2-0 ahead, only to see the bottom club recover to 2-2. Had it not been for an 83rd-minute goal by Gareth Whalley, Bradford would be five points adrift of an automatic promotion place.

This is a testing time for Jewell, the relative unknown from a leading pack of managers comprising the likes of Peter Reid, George Burley, Trevor Francis and Colin Todd. At 34, Jewell is younger than some of his players, if only by months, and his achievements as a footballer — ten years of wearing a Bradford shirt — have been modest by comparison with those to whom he must dispense wisdom now.

Stuart McCall, for example, won honours with Everton and Rangers and is Jewell's senior by age. Yet Jewell needs to be both sage and whipcracker at Valley Parade now. Only nine games stand between Bradford and a return to the top division after an absence of 77 years.

Jewell tries not to think about the historical perspective. "If you do, your mind can come off the job in hand," he said. He is on a two-year contract, having ridden out the storm of last season, when Chris Kamara was dismissed.

Bradford had won only four of their previous 21 matches. Jewell took over in January, with the team in eleventh, and finished the season in thirteenth. Supporters were unhappy that he was given the job on a lasting basis. However, Jewell reshaped the team with several summer signings, among them McCall and Whalley.

"His motivation, his willingness to learn, and his enthusiasm are among his main qualities," Whalley, who arrived in a £600,000 transfer from Crewe Alexandra, said. "He is learning more and more tactically as each game goes by."

Lee Mills and Wayne Jacobs put Bradford two goals ahead but they were caught by two left-wing crosses from Jim Brennan that set up unchallenged headed goals for Ade Akinbiyi and Sorën Andersen. Whalley, though, had his Bristol City coffin nails at the ready and Peter Beagrie missed a last-minute penalty.

"We need a miracle now," Benny Lennartsson, the Bristol City manager, said. In Kirk Jones, the club has a miracle-worker as a supporter but, unfortunately for Lennartsson, he performs them on screen only. Jones is the writer-director of the highly-acclaimed film *Waking Ned*, about a lottery winner from the smallest of villages. As a Bristol City fan, though, he is holding a losing ticket. Without a win in 11 games, the second division beckons.

BRISTOL CITY (4-4-2): S Phillips — L Carey, M Shail, V Sebok, J Brennan — N Heaney (sub: S Murray, 73min), T Doherty, R Edwards (sub: A Locke, 61), B Tinnion — A Akinbiyi, S Andersen

BRADFORD CITY (4-4-2): G Walsh — L Todd, D Moore, J Dreyer, W Jacobs — J Lawrence, S McCall, G Whalley, P Beagrie — L Mills, D Windass (sub: I Rankin, 90).

Referee: W Jordan

Exploits take their toll on Juventus

OVERSEAS VIEW

By Rob Hughes

Europe's leading professional footballers, expected to change colours and roles like chameleons, must be nearing the point of no return on the demands on their stamina and technique. For Manchester United, the transition back to the FA Carling Premiership yesterday seemed easy enough, the benefits of a huge squad and a wide gulf between them and Everton being evident.

But for Juventus — United's semi-final opponents in the European Cup — their Serie A encounter in Turin with AS Roma yesterday was a gruelling grudge match; and even Bayern Munich, who are running away with the Bundesliga and also reached the last four of the European Cup in midweek, needed a late goal to achieve their eighth consecutive League win, at the expense of Werder Bremen.

Since drawing with Manchester United at Old Trafford at the beginning of December, Bayern have won every match they have played, in all competitions, without conceding a goal. It was no different in the Olympic Stadium on Saturday — even if Bremen's defence did not surrender until the 87th minute when Carsten Jancker scored the winner. "This is the best Bayern team for 20 years," Franz Beckenbauer, the president of Bayern, enthused. And the same man, who both played in and coached a German team to win the World Cup has also lamented that his nation — beaten 3-0 by the United States last month — is at the lowest ebb in memory.

Curious. And curiouser still is the fact that the Germany squad scheduled to play in Belfast against Northern Ireland on Saturday contained no fewer than eight Bayern players until Alexander Zickler and Michael Tarnat withdrew through injury yesterday.

In Italy, the relative decline of Juventus, who are struggling to hold onto fifth place in the league, belies a certain fierce competitive streak. Since Marcello Lippi resigned as coach, his replacement, Carlo Ancelotti, has not lost a match.

His run was extended to ten games yesterday, although his team were less than convincing in holding Roma 1-1. There was needle from the start, provided by the taunt from Zdenek Zeman, the Roma coach, that Juventus players use performance-enhancing injections. Without Alessandro Del Piero, who is out for the season, and Zinedine Zidane, who may miss the first leg of his club's tie against Manchester United through a knee injury, Juventus had to toil hard — especially after their makeshift defence had conceded a 53rd-minute goal to Marco del Vecchio. Mark Iuliano, the Juventus defender, equalised after 72 minutes to give his side a share of the spoils.

Their hopes of retaining the Serie A title became even more remote when Fiorentina, with Gabriel Batistuta among the scorers, beat Piacenza 2-1 and Lazio, the leaders, beat Venezia 2-0. Sampdoria, not missing David Platt, brushed aside Internazionale 4-0, and inevitably Mircea Lucescu, Inter's interim coach from Romania, promptly resigned. What Manchester United started, Sampdoria emphatically finished.

Ronaldo has been voted the second-worst Brazilian footballer in a poll conducted by a Brazilian sports newspaper. The Internazionale striker, who has twice been voted world player of the year, received 73 votes and was runner-up to Mirandinha, of Corinthians, with 130.

By Saturday 40 nations will be fully engaged in qualifying for the European championships. In France there could be an intriguing contest between Marcel Desailly, of Chelsea, and Andrei Shevchenko, whose speed and precision finishing have powered Dynamo Kiev to a European Cup semi-final against Bayern Munich. Along with most of his Dynamo colleagues, Shevchenko will be representing Ukraine.

However, for some, the weekend prospects and the journeying are bleak. Ireland, already denied a visit to Belgrade, await news as to whether their game against Macedonia in Skopje on Saturday goes ahead; there are 10,000 Nato troops assembling in the city, and the threat of war will almost certainly prevent a football contest.

Similarly, the game between Yugoslavia and Croatia in Belgrade is also likely to be postponed.

Ipswich on Wright track

West Bromwich Albion 0
Ipswich Town 1

By Peter Robinson

THERE are lies, damned lies and statistics — an old saying and as true of sport as it is of the political arena that spawned it. Cricket is nothing without numbers, its bowling figures, its batting averages and its scorecards. Tennis is counting for simpletons, golf for the slightly less dim. Americans have designed entire national pastimes around the need to count in equations, think baseball, think American football.

So here's a stat: Ipswich Town have kept 22 clean sheets in the Nationwide League this season. They did it again on Saturday against West Bromwich Albion. Some more numbers: they won 1-0, picked up three points to take their total to 73 and are second in the table.

True, the numbers do not tell you how all this has been achieved, but if you had been at The Hawthorns on Saturday, it would have been easy enough to understand. Ipswich are very good at defending, far too good for most sides in the first division. Going forward, they have a back three: going backwards, they have a back eight or nine. Oh, and rather crucially, the best goalkeeper outside the FA Carling Premiership, indeed, a 21-year-old who is rather better than many of those in it.

Richard Wright was a class apart on Saturday. It may have seemed that he had little to do, but that was simply because he made it look so easy. International recognition and a place in the full squad have come already and although Kevin Keegan, the temporary England coach, has dropped him back into the junior party for the forthcoming internationals, Wright is quite happy.

He may be a little busier with the under-21s, too. Once Manuel Thetis had scored after 15 minutes and Mark Angel had spurned a chance to equalise a few moments later, the die was cast. The goal was a good one, a cross by Clapham, an attempted overhead kick by Thetis that wafted upwards rather than goalwards and then another go, with the big defender now grounded, flat on his back, that flew into the bottom corner. The miss was a horror, one that Lee Hughes, the League's leading goalscorer, would surely have converted had he not been ruled out with an injury.

A good goal, a worthy win, and yet Thetis went home in a huff. A fracas near the end, in which Sean Flynn pushed him to the ground and he, on getting up, continued the dispute, saw both players dismissed.

WEST BROMWICH ALBION (4-4-2): P Whitehead — D Gabbidon, D Burgess, M Carbon, G Potter (sub: S Murphy, 75min) — J Quinn (sub: J Richards, 82), R Sneekes, S Flynn, M Angel — F De Freitas, K Kilbane (sub: E Maresca, 82)

IPSWICH TOWN (3-5-2): R Wright — M Thetis, A Mowbray, M Venus — F Wilnis, M Stockwell, M Holland, J Magilton, J Clapham — J Scowcroft, D Johnson

Referee: D Laws

Huddersfield miss out

Huddersfield Town 1
Birmingham City 1

By Martin Woods

THERE'S a wood perched on top of the hillside that peers down over the McAlpine Stadium, the sort once fashionable among rock and sports stars as a tax efficient investment. As the Nationwide League first division race reaches its final furlong, Birmingham City find themselves stuck in the middle of a more openly hostile plantation battling to join Sunderland in the lucrative world of the FA Carling Premiership.

Trevor Francis's side are seeking deliverance. Huddersfield Town would love to be in their shoes. Virtually impregnable at home, the Terriers abhor travelling. Their 3-0 reverse the previous Saturday against Ipswich Town was their eleventh away defeat.

With the relentless logic of the chaos theory that is seemingly taking a grip on the division — it was first traced to the Reebok Stadium last month, when Crewe Alexandra beat Bolton 3-1 — Huddersfield were due to ambush one of the play-off favourites. That they didn't, and allowed Birmingham to earn a point, despite having Gary Rowett, the defender, sent off after 80 minutes for an agricultural challenge on Facey, the scorer of Huddersfield's equaliser, confirms the wishful nature of their play-off ambitions and poses doubts about Birmingham's credentials.



Gary Rowett: dismissed

The suspicion grows by the week that there are only a handful of players among the sides chasing promotion who are of Premiership standard. Rowett is one, along with his colleagues John McCarthy and Peter Ndlovu. On Saturday's evidence, Huddersfield would need three Martin O'Neills in their dugout to survive a Premiership campaign.

Birmingham took the lead when Johnson headed home Hughes's free kick. Their chances of adding to it were undermined when Adebola sustained a hamstring injury and, four minutes later, Huddersfield equalised.

HUDDERSFIELD TOWN (4-4-2): N Vaesen — S Jenkins, C Armstrong, K Gray, R Edwards — D Facey (sub: S Baldry, 88min), D Hamilton (sub: C Beech, 86), G Johnson, B Thornley — M Stewart, W Allison.

BIRMINGHAM CITY (4-4-2): K Poole — J Bass, G Rowett, M Johnson, S Charlton — M Grainger, B Hughes (sub: S Robinson, 84), M O'Connor, J McCarthy — D Adebola (sub: P Furlong, 52), P Ndlovu (sub: N Forster, 75)

Referee: S Bennett.

Bournemouth have formula for future

Preston North End 0
Bournemouth 1

By A Correspondent

TALK of investment and consolidation is in the air around Bournemouth. However, with the transfer deadline looming, bricks and mortar — rather than central defenders — will be the priorities for discussion this week. The club that were just ten minutes from extinction two years ago are hopeful that a meeting with the local council tomorrow will secure a long-term future at Dean Court.

Mel Machin, the Bournemouth manager, is optimistic, particularly after his young side's impressive victory over second-placed Preston North End at Deepdale thickened the plot as to the identity of the other team that will be promoted automatically with Fulham from the Nationwide League second division.

"We have plans to build a new stadium, turn the ground on its side away from the houses and give all-round access," Machin said. Such grandiose visions are not diminished by the talented squad that Machin has assembled.

Deprived of Eddie Howe, the England Under-21 defender, Bournemouth had by far the better of exchanges, a fact conceded by David Moyes, the Preston manager, who himself was unable to select five first-team players through injury. Of those sidelined it was Sean Gregan, the Preston captain, who was the most notable absentee as his side failed to consume the enterprise brimming in Bournemouth's midfield.

Steve Robinson and John O'Neill exemplified the composure in that department and they combined to create the only goal of the game in the thirteenth minute. O'Neill's throw-in released Robinson and his precise cross to the far post was headed firmly into the net by Steve Fletcher.

Although Preston increased the pressure after half-time, the closest the match came to another goal was when Ian Cox, the Bournemouth centre half, had a header cleared off the line by Mark Rankine.

PRESTON NORTH END (3-5-2): D Lucas — M Jackson, C Murdock, D Eyres — J Darby, A Gray (sub: J Macken, 45min), M Appleton (sub: J Harris, 75), M Rankine, T McKenna — K Nogan, S Basham

BOURNEMOUTH (4-4-2): M Ovendale — N Young, I Cox, R Hughes, J Vincent — J O'Neill (sub: A Griffin, 81), M Dean (sub: M Rawlinson, 86), S Robinson, J Hayter — M Stein (sub: D Town, 83), S Fletcher

Referee: S Mathieson

Brazilian wounded after close encounter

Colchester United 0
Manchester City 1

By Nick Szczepanik

IT WAS one of those evenings when truth was stranger than fiction. The defining image of the match was not the single moment of quality that decided it, but a look of bewilderment.

It appeared on the face of Andy Morrison, the Manchester City captain and central defender, shown a yellow card by Rob Styles, the referee, on the stroke of half-time. He gazed towards the bench, arms outstretched, in appeal to some higher power.

It was his twelfth booking of the season, the club's 71st, and was awarded for a muscular, but hardly improper, aerial challenge for the ball. It was one of seven yellow cards shown in a game which barely contained a tackle worthy of the name. "We've already had one [yellow card] this season for aggressive walking, now we've got one for heading the ball cleanly," Joe Royle, the City manager, said.

Bizarre, but what can you expect when one glance at the match programme suggested that the entire City team had been mysteriously removed from this dimension and replaced by *Oldham Athletic* players? Or when a Brazilian, José Antunes Fumaca, makes his Colchester United debut after signing from Grimsby Town reserves, then vanishes almost immediately, on a stretcher after a clash of heads with Morrison? Spooky.

It may have been the effects of City's away kit, which bathed Layer Road in an eerie glow, or of the six o'clock kick-off time, arranged to satisfy the demands of the pay-per-view audience. They must have wondered why they had wasted their money, until the 55th minute, when Shaun Goater beat Carl Emberson with a dipping volley. Goater's goal, in a game when the number of balls hoofed out of the ground reached double figures, was a visitor from another world. Cue theme music from *The X-Files*.

COLCHESTER UNITED (4-3-1-2): C Emberson — K Duguid, D Greene, S Pounewatchy, J Dunne — P Buckle, W Aspinall, D Gregory — J Antunes Fumaca (sub: M Sale, 16min; sub: S Stamps, 65) — J Dozzell, N Gregory

MANCHESTER CITY (3-5-2): N Weaver — G Wiekens, A Morrison, A Vaughan — L Crooks, T Cooke (sub: J Whitley, 78), M Brown, I Bishop, R Edghill — S Goater, G Taylor.

Referee: R Styles

Motson's notebook gets a workout

Cambridge United 7
Mansfield Town 2

By Bill Edgar

SEATED deep in the ramshackle stands, BBC Radio Cambridgeshire earphones touching the collar of his sheepskin coat, was the incongruous figure of John Motson. A guest of Cambridge United at this match, the *Match of the Day* veteran had delighted the local station by accepting a cheeky request to provide some analysis alongside their regular commentator. His generous gesture deserved reward, and United obliged him by creating a scoring record for his well-filled statistical notebook.

Not that Motson would have considered a little unscheduled work in the Nationwide League third division as an ordeal. His visit to the Abbey Stadium was a busman's holiday in which he seemed to relish doing some unpaid overtime behind the steering wheel. He will certainly be proud to say he saw Cambridge score seven at home for the first time since they joined the Football League 29 years ago.

In fact, it must occasionally have been possible for Motson to imagine he was in his familiar territory of the FA Carling Premiership, such were the clever passing movements of both sides. Cambridge prevailed, however, because they possessed three strikers — Martin Butler, John Taylor and Trevor Benjamin — who have scored 51 goals between them this season.

Removed from the top of the division by Cardiff City's win over Exeter City at lunchtime, Cambridge returned to the summit through a hat-trick from Butler — a header, a turn and shot, and a penalty — and a goal each from Taylor, Benjamin, Richard Walker and Neil Mustoe.

Mansfield remain in the play-off places and deserved more than a first-half equaliser from Tony Lormor and a penalty from Lee Peacock that made the score 4-2 after 64 minutes.

CAMBRIDGE UNITED (4-3-3): A van Heusden — B Chenery, S Eustace, A Duncan, J Campbell — N Mustoe, P Wanless, D Preece (sub: I Ashbee, 46min), J Taylor (sub: R Walker, 83) — M Butler (sub: T Youngs, 89), T Benjamin.

MANSFIELD TOWN (3-5-2): I Bowling — M Peters, J Schofield, S Ryder — L Williams, D Kerr (sub: A Ford, 79), C L'Helgoualch (sub: J Walker, 60), G Tallon, S Harper — L Peacock, A Lormor (sub: M Carruthers, 74).

Referee: J Brandwood

FOOTBALL

Malady hits Keegan's European boot camp

BY GEORGE CAULKIN

IT was in the early days of his tumultuous tenure at Newcastle United that Kevin Keegan was asked to express his novice opinions of football management. There was a little wink, the hint of a smile, as the response was formulated: "You hope and you pretend that you know what you're doing," he said. Even then, the man was honing his qualifications for the national job.

By the time the latecomers from Manchester, Birmingham and Wembley converged on England's training camp in deepest Buckinghamshire last night, Keegan will have long been aware of the particular trials associated with coaching at international level. The squad announced, the interviews completed and along comes the inevitable wave of sapping injuries. Little wonder that Glenn Hoddle's successor — charged with re-igniting England's qualifying campaign for the European championships, beginning with the visit of the group leaders, Poland, on Saturday — should speak so wistfully yesterday of his half-decade on Tyneside and the ambitious, winning improvisation that enthralled a city.

"If you think I'm going to change my style just because it is England, then it is not the case. I think it's exciting to work with players of such ability. I'll do it the same way," he said. As is now traditional, the restrictions of the position are not conducive to long-term planning or continuity. Part-time luck dogs the England manager, full-time or not.

Already, Keegan could have lost a significant collection of players to injury, most notably Michael Owen. The Liverpool striker damaged his hamstring at Derby County last weekend and took no meaningful part in his club's subsequent friendly match in France. Andy Cole would be his most obvious replacement.

Another appealing option would involve a renewal of the successful club partnership between Alan Shearer and his former Blackburn Rovers colleague Chris Sutton, whose return to the England fold is the most palpable illustration that Keegan is cast in a different mould to his predecessor. Sutton, however, mildly injured an abductor muscle during Blackburn's 3-1 defeat of Wimbledon. David Beckham has also reported for duty carrying a calf strain, and so the list goes on.

While neither Sutton's nor Beckham's injuries are expected to preclude their participation at Wembley, the same cannot be said of others. David Batty is suffering from a "bug" while Andy Hinchcliffe, the left back, has a back complaint. Given that Paul Ince remains suspended and Steve Howey is absent with a calf strain, Keegan could be forgiven for sprouting a few new grey hairs.

Precisely how to wring the best from Shearer may be a further cause of premature ageing. But Keegan will have flicked through the motivational works of Vince Lombardi, the legendary coach of American football's Green Bay Packers, as he prepared to deliver the rousing speech he promised when his squad assembled at Burnham Beeches at 9pm. Depleted or not, each of his players will have felt like kings.

POLAND SQUAD: A Matysek (Bayer Leverkusen), K Sidorczuk (Sturm Graz), B Wyparlo (LKS Lodz), K Ratajczyk (Rapid Vienna), R Siadaczka (Austria Vienna), T Hajto (MSV Duisburg), P Swierczewski (Gamba Osaka), T Klos (AJ Auxerre), J Bak (Olympique Lyon), T Lapinski (Widzew Lodz), J Zielinski (Legia Warsaw), S Majak (Hansa Rostock), T Waldoch (VfL Bochum), D Adamczyk (Dundee), K Nowak (VfL Wolfsburg), T Iwan (PSV Eindhoven), J Brzeczek (Maccabi Haifa), R Michalski (Widzew Lodz), R Czerwiec (Wisla Krakow), W Kowalczyk (Las Palmas), M Trzeciak (Osasuna), A Juskowiak (VfL Wolfsburg).


RICHARD WILLE

Ally McCoist led the line for Kilmarnock yesterday but was unable to breach the Celtic defence at Rugby Park

Celtic fail to take advantage

Kilmarnock 0
Celtic................................. 0

BY PHIL GORDON

CELTIC may have different players on the wage bill, and a different coach in the dugout, but Rugby Park continues to haunt their every championship ambition.

The sense of déjà-vu was inescapable as Jozef Venglos's side stumbled here just as hesitantly as Tommy Burns' steam did two years ago. Celtic may have cut the deficit on Rangers to nine points at the top of the Scottish Premier League, but this result was greeted as surely as if it had been a defeat.

How Celtic must wish they had saved just one of their recent plethora of goals for this occasion, but Kilmarnock, one time challengers for the title themselves, eased the anxiety of the other half of the Old Firm.

Rangers' defeat by Dundee United 24 hours earlier had opened up a fresh vein of optimism for Celtic and the champions placed Kilmarnock under incessant pressure in the opening ten minutes.

However, Viduka was just too eager and the Celtic forward allowed himself to be caught offside on three occasions.

Mistiming, though, gradually became contagious with a succession of badly-judged tackles resulting in fouls. Ian Durrant, the Kilmarnock midfield player, was spoken to for a bad challenge from behind on Paul Lambert before Paul Wright, his colleague, earned the first caution of the night for scything down Craig Burley.

Gus McPherson, Kilmarnock's right back, could have joined Wright in the 24th minute when he chopped Larsson down by the corner flag. McPherson was probably extracting a measure of revenge for a tackle by the Swede on him when these clubs met last month, which left a bad wound, and was fortunate to escape censure here.

Indeed, the punishment could have been greater had Johan Mjallby's fierce header from McKinlay's free kick not flown just over, but within a minute the Celtic central defender too was booked for cutting Gary Holt down.

Real chances, however, remained at a premium. McCoist's gallant dive almost connected with Kerr's fine ball into the box, but the striker could not apply the vital touch, and then Holt denied Regi Blinker as the Celtic midfield player was released by a deft Larsson pass.

The war of attrition continued in the second half and McPherson was soon booked for a foul on McKinlay. The game was pressed into the middle third of the pitch, and although both sides tried to maintain a fluent passing game, no sooner had one discovered a possible route through, than the other scurried to close it down. Lambert's fine run did manage to pierce Kilmarnock's barrier to deliver a tempting cross, but again Viduka was caught offside.

Fortune smiled on Kilmarnock, too, when on the hour, Gordon Marshall dropped Blinker's corner, but there was no Celtic player close enough to punish the goalkeeper. Kevin McGowne was cautioned for a dreadful 68th-minute tackle from behind on Viduka but, in truth, the Celtic player had been too sluggish to be much of a threat.

McKinlay delivered another fine corner with ten minutes left, but Riseth, who scored the winner when these sides met last month, this time saw his header arc just over the junction of post and bar.

KILMARNOCK (4-4-2): G Marshall — G McPherson, K McGowne, J Lauchlan, D Kerr — G Holt, I Durrant, M Reilly, A Mitchell — P Wright, A McCoist
CELTIC (4-4-2): J Gould — T Boyd, V Riseth, J Mjallby, T McKinlay — J McNamara, C Burley, P Lambert, R Blinker — H Larsson, M Viduka
Referee: M McCurry

Tiverton book Wembley return

Tiverton Town........................ 2
Taunton Town......................... 1
(Tiverton win 5-1 on agg)

BY WALTER GAMMIE

ANY lingering doubt that Tiverton Town will be back at Wembley on May 16 to defend the FA Carlsberg Vase against Bedlington Terriers was put to rest in the space of 15 minutes of the semi-final second leg at Ladysmead on Saturday.

Twice Pete Varley, whose goal against Tow Law Town won Tiverton the trophy last year, broke through during that period and twice he was hauled down by Dave Penberthy, the Taunton goalkeeper, as he dribbled past him.

The first time Penberthy was booked, and Steve Daly drove in a low penalty off the goalkeeper's right-hand post. The second time it happened, the goalkeeper was sent off and Daly sweetly placed his kick inside the left-hand post of Derek Fowler, the stand-in goalkeeper.

Before Daly took his second penalty, the pent-up frustration felt by Taunton at having to play second fiddle to opponents they had twice mastered in their meetings in the Screwfix Direct League this season poured out. Penberthy remonstrated angrily at the second penalty award and flung his jersey to the ground before stomping to the sidelines. And an ugly-looking brawl threatened to get out of hand before Russell Musker, the Taunton manager, helped to calm down the warring parties.

The goal scored in the eighth minute of injury time at the end of the first half by Ellis Laight, after the Tiverton defence had been caught out by a ball pumped forward by Paul Thorpe, was Taunton's only high point of a semi-final effectively lost by the 3-0 defeat on their own ground the previous week. At least Taunton did not have far to travel home, unlike when they lost at Tow Law in the semi-final last season.

TIVERTON TOWN (5-3-2): P Edwards — M Fallon, D Tallon (sub: S Smith, 79min), P Tatterton, N Saunders, D Leonard — K Nancekivell, P Conning (sub: S Rogers, 83), S Daly — P Varley (sub: R Pears, 83), P Everett.
TAUNTON TOWN (3-5-2): D Penberthy — P West, T Kelly, R Thompson (sub: P Thorpe, 15) — D Fowler, M Parker (sub: M Underhay, 79), C Myers, I Bastow (sub: S Hodley, 44), M Loram — A Lynch, E Laight.
Referee: P Rejer

BOXING

Lewis and Holyfield to meet in September

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE rematch between Evander Holyfield and Lennox Lewis will be staged in September, it was announced yesterday. Don King, the boxing promoter, said on American television that another contest between the heavyweight boxers was the only way to settle the controversy sparked when their bout in New York on March 13 — which Lewis dominated — was judged a draw.

King said he had obtained Holyfield's signature for the rematch on Saturday, and already had the agreement of Lewis. "I've signed both fighters for the rematch, this is the only curative we have in boxing when you have a dispute, is to have a rematch," he said.

"Holyfield wants to fight in September, and Lewis wants to fight in September, so we're going to see if we can work it out for September. We don't know when and where right now, I will go to work on that."

Followers of boxing on both sides of the Atlantic derided the verdict that allowed Holyfield, of the United States, to retain his World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation titles, saying Lewis, of Britain, holder of the World Boxing Council title, was clearly the winner.

A number of investigations have been launched into the bout and lawyers have begun legal steps to seek damages for angry British fans.

"They want a return of the money spent on the trip on the basis that what they saw was not a fair and proper fight," Stephen Alexander, a lawyer, said. "People expected to see the heavyweight championship of the world staged in a proper manner."

Alexander said the claim would be on behalf of two groups of fans, the first from among the 8,000 Britons who went to New York for the fight and the second from those who saw it on pay television.

The claims are being brought against the promoters, the holiday companies and the New York Boxing Board of Control.

ICE HOCKEY: SHEFFIELD OVERCOME TROUBLES TO CLAIM FIRST SUPERLEAGUE CUP

Sjerven's steel frustrates Panthers

Nottingham Panthers 0
Sheffield Steelers................ 4

BY MARTIN LEACH

SHEFFIELD Steelers made sure of at least one trophy from a troubled season when they claimed the Superleague Challenge Cup for the first time with victory over Nottingham Panthers.

Brothers Teeder and John Wynne shot the Steelers 2-0 ahead, on their own ice, inside five minutes before Panthers were frustrated by the brilliance of Grant Sjerven, the Steelers' netminder.

A third from Ed Courtenay and Kenny Priestlay's fourth into an empty net, confirmed victory for the Sheffield side whose season has been dominated by illness and injury.

Rob Wilson, the Steelers captain, who accepted the cup from Ian Taylor, the chief executive of the Superleague, said: "This is fantastic after the long and hard year we have had. We've had a lot of ups and downs, but there are a lot of winners in that dressing room."

Contrastingly, Mike Blaisdell, the Panthers' disappointed coach, imparted his sympathy for his team's fans and added: "The killer period for us was losing those first two goals so quickly and then we could never find the shots to beat Sjerven."

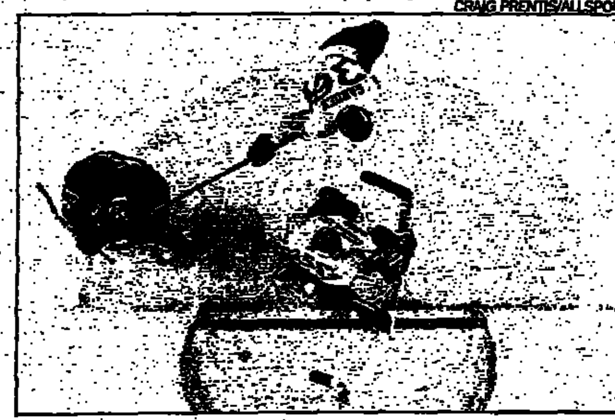
The Panthers came out cold and were punished heavily. Within a minute, Craig Chapman had provided a taste of what was to come by robbing a slow-moving Mike Bishop and testing Trevor Robins's catching hand.

Hakan Falkenhall, of Sweden, and David Longstaff also had time to give the Panthers more scares before Teeder Wynne struck after two minutes, swooping in to score with Panthers in disarray. He threatened again and Panthers were still trying to regroup when John Wynne made it 2-0 in the fifth minute.

It took a holding penalty against Steelers' Priestlay to get the Panthers moving as an attacking force.

But it was then that Sjerven made his huge personal statement with a series of memorable saves. Sheffield soaked up the pressure and scored their third goal out of nothing before underlining their supremacy through Priestlay's remarkable long-range effort after 58 minutes.

SCORERS: Steelers: Priestlay (1+1), J Wynne (1+1), T Wynne (1+0), Allison (0+2), Longstaff (0+1)

CRAIG PRENTIS/ALLSPORT

Teeder Wynne opens the scoring at the Sheffield Arena

Manchester keep up the pressure

MANCHESTER Storm ended another miserable week for the London Knights ice hockey franchise with a 3-0 win in the Sekonda play-off championships. The Superleague champions needed to win to keep the pressure on Sheffield Steelers and Bracknell Bees in the battle for the two qualifying places from group A. They secured victory with two goals from Jeff Jablonski and one from Darren Hurley.

HOCKEY

Bournville win sours Pearn's birthday goal

MARK PEARN scored a fine individual goal for Reading on his 22nd birthday yesterday, but his effort was not enough to save his side from a 3-2 home defeat by Bournville, for whom Bertram had an outstanding game in defence, scoring two goals from short corners (Sydney Friskin writes).

Several vital issues were resolved after yesterday's matches, which put Cannock in an unassailable position at the top of the table, even though they were held to a 5-5 draw at Guildford. Crutchley scored three goals for the visitors, while Arscott replied with a hat-trick of his own for Guildford.

Cannock were given a fright at home on Saturday by Bournville, who held out until the last minute before Sharpe scored the only goal of the match from a short corner.

Southgate, having lost 3-1 to Teddington on Saturday, qualified for the championship play-offs, along with Cannock, after a 2-0 away win over Hounslow.

Trailing these clubs in the table are Reading and Canterbury, who were beaten 5-2 yesterday by Beeston. With one match to play, on April 11, Canterbury, only two points ahead of Beeston, face a serious challenge for a place in the top four. East Grinstead and Brooklands have been relegated to the first division.

Matches in the first division were completed yesterday, with Surbiton ending the season on top of the table after a 7-1 victory over Firebrand and qualifying for a two-match play-off with Hounslow for the tenth and final place in the restructured premier division next season.

BOWLS

England and Scotland shine in midday sun

SO THIS was what many of Britain's leading women bowlers missed the home indoor internationals for last week — the Atlantic Rim outdoor championships got under way at the Goodwood Bowls Club in Cape Town yesterday in warm sunshine, and against a scenic backdrop that Belfast just could not match (David Rhys Jones writes).

A gusty wind made conditions difficult in the shadow of Table Mountain, but the host country, who won the title in Durban four years ago, coped well, winning all four matches — two each in triples and pairs.

England, who look strong, and Scotland, who look even stronger, made good starts, with four wins out of four.

England defeated Argentina and Guernsey, and Scotland defeated Namibia and Canada. However, Wales, the champions, lost to Ireland in both disciplines, before recovering with a couple of victories over Holland.

The Scots have been in such commanding form this winter on indoor carpets, that it would come as no surprise if they won the title, with such stalwarts as Margaret Letham, Joyce Lindores and Sarah Gourlay.

Ireland, whose wins over Wales got them off to a dream start, were set back on their heels when they lost to Zimbabwe in the pairs, and tied in the triples, in which Margaret Johnston is skip.

Johnston, the best-known woman bowler in the world, had a reasonably good day on the green, but was unlucky off it, when her handbag, placed at the end of the rink, was stolen.

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

ARSENAL (1) 2 COVENTRY (0) 0

NOTTM FOREST (1) 1 MIDDLESBROUGH (1) 2

ASTON VILLA (0) 0 CHELSEA (0) 3

BLACKBURN (3) 3 WIMBLEDON (0) 1

SOUTHAMPTON (1) 1 SHEFFIELD WED (0) 0

MAN UTD (0) 3 EVERTON (0) 1

LEEDS (3) 4 DERBY (1) 1

WEST HAM (1) 2 NEWCASTLE (0) 0

GOALSCORERS

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: [illegible]

OVERSEAS

GERMAN LEAGUE: [illegible]

SPANISH LEAGUE: [illegible]

ITALIAN LEAGUE: [illegible]

FRENCH LEAGUE: [illegible]



		HOME					AWAY					Goal
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts diff
1 Man Utd	[illegible]											
2 Arsenal	[illegible]											
3 Chelsea	[illegible]											
4 Leeds	[illegible]											
5 West Ham	[illegible]											
6 Aston Villa	[illegible]											
7 Derby	[illegible]											
8 Wimbledon	[illegible]											
9 Liverpool	[illegible]											
10 Tottenham	[illegible]											
11 Middlesbro	[illegible]											
12 Newcastle	[illegible]											
13 Sheff Wed	[illegible]											
14 Leicester	[illegible]											
15 Coventry	[illegible]											
16 Everton	[illegible]											
17 Blackburn	[illegible]											
18 Southampton	[illegible]											
19 Charlton	[illegible]											
20 Nottm F	[illegible]											

Nationwide FOOTBALL LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION

BARNSLEY (2) 2 WOLVES (1) 3

BRISTOL CITY (0) 2 BRADFORD (2) 3

CREWE (0) 3 OXFORD UTD (0) 1

CRYSTAL PALACE (2) 3 GRIMSBY (1) 1

HUDDERSFIELD (0) 1 BIRMINGHAM (0) 1

NORWICH (0) 0 PORTSMOUTH (0) 0

QPR (0) 4 SWINDON (0) 0

SHEFFIELD UTD (0) 3 PORT VALE (0) 0

STOCKPORT (0) 0 TRANMERE (0) 0

SUNDERLAND (2) 3 BOLTON (0) 1

WATFORD (0) 0 BURY (0) 0

WEST BROM (0) 0 IPSWICH (1) 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Gls
1 Sunderland	[illegible]												
2 Ipswich	[illegible]												
3 Bradford	[illegible]												
4 Birmingham	[illegible]												
5 Bolton	[illegible]												
6 Wolves	[illegible]												
7 Sheff Utd	[illegible]												
8 Watford	[illegible]												
9 Huddersfld	[illegible]												
10 West Brom	[illegible]												
11 Grimsby	[illegible]												
12 C Palace	[illegible]												
13 Norwich	[illegible]												
14 Tranmere	[illegible]												
15 Stockport	[illegible]												
16 Portsmouth	[illegible]												
17 Barnsley	[illegible]												
18 Swindon	[illegible]												
19 QPR	[illegible]												
20 Bury	[illegible]												
21 Port Vale	[illegible]												
22 Oxford Utd	[illegible]												
23 Crewe	[illegible]												
24 Bristol City	[illegible]												

SECOND DIVISION

CHESTERFIELD (0) 0 LUTON (0) 1

COLCHESTER (0) 0 MAN CITY (0) 1

FULHAM (1) 4 BLACKPOOL (0) 0

GILLINGHAM (1) 4 LINCOLN (0) 1

NORTHAMPTON (0) 0 MACCLESFIELD (0) 2

OLDHAM (0) 0 MILLWALL (0) 1

PRESTON (0) 0 BOURNEMOUTH (1) 1

READING (1) 2 WYCOMBE (0) 1

STOKE (0) 2 NOTTS COUNTY (0) 3

WALSALL (2) 3 BRISTOL R (0) 1

WREXHAM (0) 1 BURNLEY (0) 1

YORK (1) 1 WIGAN (0) 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Gls
1 Fulham	[illegible]												
2 Preston	[illegible]												
3 Walsall	[illegible]												
4 Bournemouth	[illegible]												
5 Gillingham	[illegible]												
6 Man City	[illegible]												
7 Reading	[illegible]												
8 Wigan	[illegible]												
9 Stoke	[illegible]												
10 Chesterfld	[illegible]												
11 Millwall	[illegible]												
12 Wrexham	[illegible]												
13 Blackpool	[illegible]												
14 Luton	[illegible]												
15 Bristol R	[illegible]												
16 Notts Co	[illegible]												
17 Colchester	[illegible]												
18 Oldham	[illegible]												
19 York	[illegible]												
20 Lincoln City	[illegible]												
21 Burnley	[illegible]												
22 Northmptn	[illegible]												
23 Macclesfld	[illegible]												
24 Wycombe	[illegible]												

THIRD DIVISION

CAMBRIDGE U (3) 7 MANSFIELD (1) 2

CARLISLE (0) 0 BRENTFORD (0) 0

DARLINGTON (1) 2 SOUTHEND (0) 0

EXETER (0) 0 CARDIFF (0) 1

HARTLEPOOL (0) 0 BRIGHTON (0) 0

HULL (0) 1 PLYMOUTH (0) 0

ROCHDALE (0) 0 BARNET (0) 0

ROTHERHAM (0) 2 PETERBOROUGH (2) 2

SCUNTHORPE (0) 2 LEYTON ORIENT (0) 0

SHREWSBURY (1) 2 CHESTER (0) 0

SWANSEA (1) 1 HALIFAX (0) 0

TORQUAY (0) 0 SCARBOROUGH (0) 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Gls
1 Camb Utd	[illegible]												
2 Cardiff	[illegible]												
3 Brentford	[illegible]												
4 Scunthorpe	[illegible]												
5 L Orient	[illegible]												
6 Mansfield	[illegible]												
7 Rotherham	[illegible]												
8 Halifax	[illegible]												
9 Swansea	[illegible]												
10 Plymouth	[illegible]												
11 Peterboro	[illegible]												
12 Darlington	[illegible]												
13 Exeter	[illegible]												
14 Brighton	[illegible]												
15 Shrewsbury	[illegible]												
16 Chester	[illegible]												
17 Barnet	[illegible]												
18 Rochdale	[illegible]												
19 Southend	[illegible]												
20 Torquay	[illegible]												
21 Hull	[illegible]												
22 Carlisle	[illegible]												
23 Hartlepool	[illegible]												
24 Scarboro	[illegible]												

GOALSCORERS

NATIONWIDE FIRST DIVISION: [illegible]

SECOND DIVISION: [illegible]

THIRD DIVISION: [illegible]

Worthington cup

FINAL

LEICESTER (0) 0 TOTTENHAM (0) 1

SCOTLAND

BANK OF SCOTLAND SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE SPL

DUNDEE (0) 2 HEARTS (0) 0

DUNFERMLINE (0) 1 ST JOHNSTONE (0) 0

MOTHERWELL (0) 1 ABERDEEN (0) 1

RANGERS (0) 0 DUNDEE UTD (0) 1

KILMARNOCK (0) 0 CELTIC (0) 0

FIRST DIVISION

AYR (1) 2 ST MIRREN (1) 2

CLYDEBANK (0) 0 RAITH (0) 0

FALKIRK (2) 6 HAMILTON (0) 1

HIBERNIAN (2) 3 AIRDRIE (0) 0

STRANRAER (0) 0 GK MORTON (0) 1

SECOND DIVISION

ALLOA (1) 2 QUEEN OF SOUTH (2) 5

CLYDE (1) 1 ARBROATH (0) 1

EAST FIFE (1) 1 STIRLING (0) 0

FORFAR (0) 2 INVERNESS C (0) 3

PARTICK (1) 1 LIVINGSTON (0) 1

THIRD DIVISION

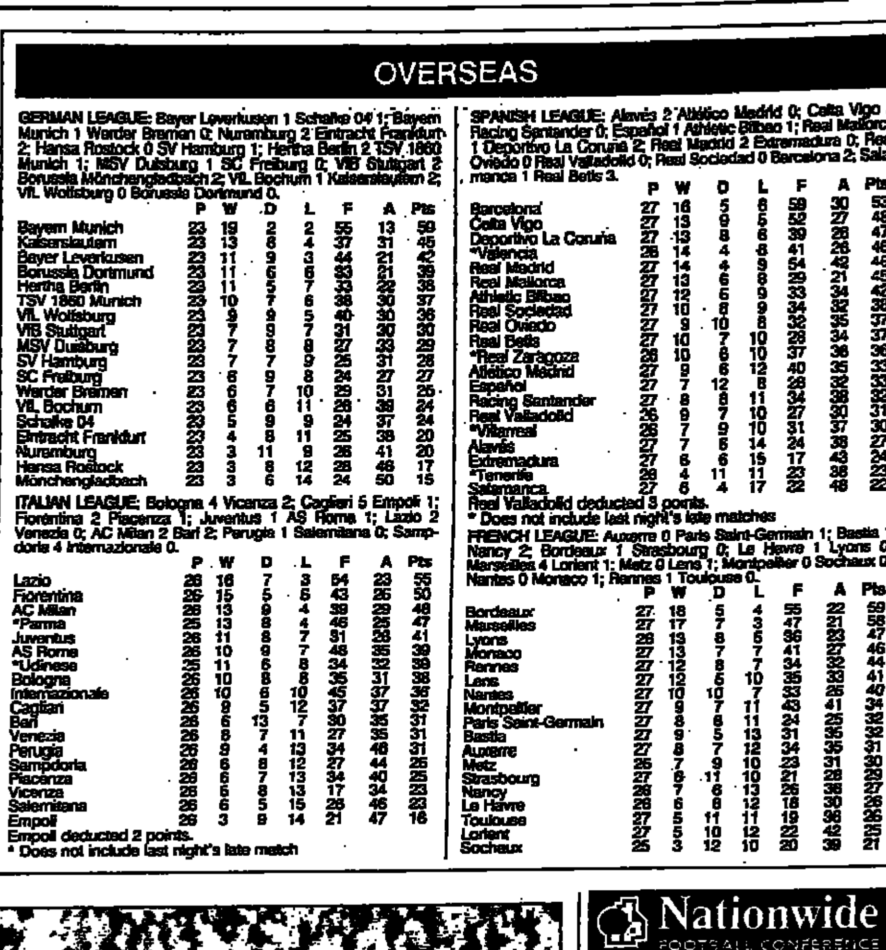
ALBION (0) 1 STENHOUSEMUIR (0) 2

BERWICK (0) 2 BRECHIN (0) 1

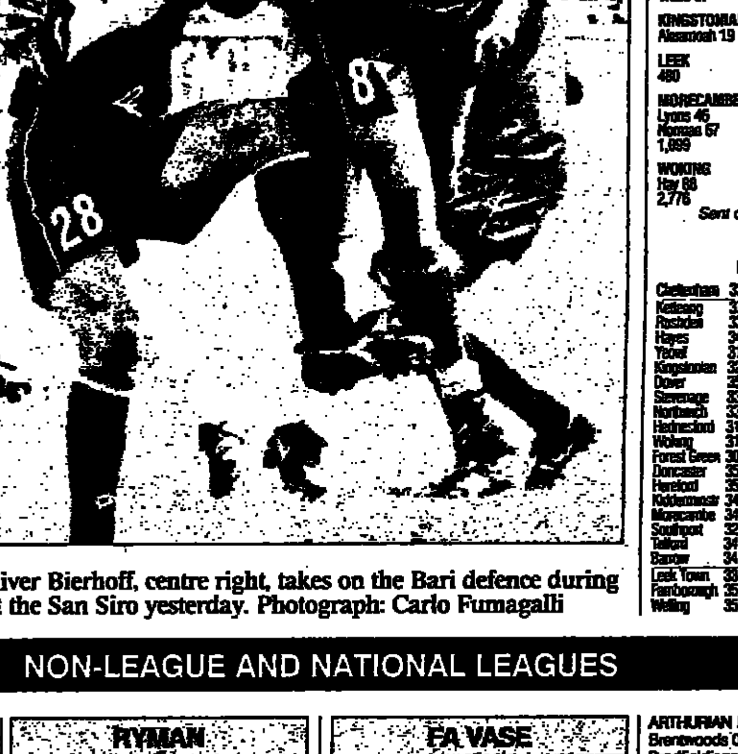
MONTROSE (0) 0 EAST STIRLING (0) 0

QUEEN'S PARK (1) 2 COWDENBEATH (0) 1

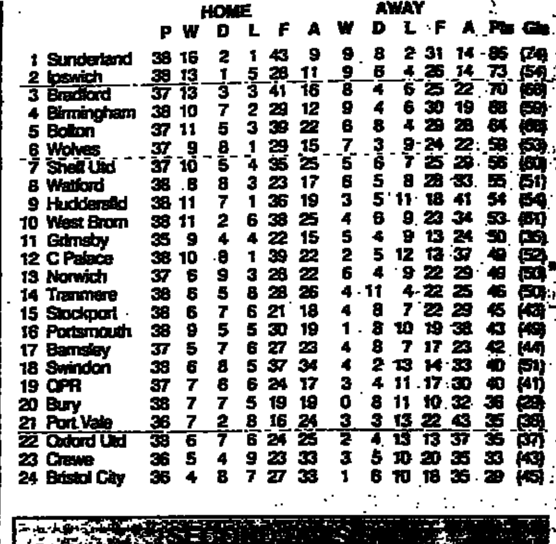
ROSS COUNTY (1) 1 DUMBARTON (0) 2







In the thick of the action: Oliver Bierhoff, centre right, takes on the Bari defence during AC Milan's 2-2 draw at the San Siro yesterday. Photograph: Carlo Fumagalli



Nationwide FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

CHELTENHAM (2) 3 KETTERING (0) 0

DONCASTER (2) 4 WELLING (1) 1

FARNBOROUGH (1) 1 NORTHWICH (3) 6

HAYES (0) 3 SOUTHPORT (0) 0

HEDNESFORD (0) 2 YEOVIL (2) 3

HEREFORD (0) 2 BARROW (0) 1

KIDDERMINSTER (0) 1 DOVER (0) 1

KINGSTONIAN (1) 1 TELFORD (0) 0

LEEK (0) 0 FOREST GREEN (1) 2

MORECAMBE (0) 2 RUSHDEN & D (2) 3

WOKING (0) 0 STEVENAGE (0) 2

NON-LEAGUE AND NATIONAL LEAGUES

UNIBOND

PREMIER DIVISION: [illegible]

RYMAN

PREMIER DIVISION: [illegible]

DR MARTENS

PREMIER DIVISION: [illegible]

FA VASE

SEMI-FINALS, SECOND LEG: [illegible]

SCOTLAND

PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goal diff
1 Rangers	[illegible]												
2 Celtic	[illegible]												
3 Kilmarnock	[illegible]												
4 St Johnstn	[illegible]												
5 Motherwell	[illegible]												
6 Aberdeen	[illegible]												
7 Dundee	[illegible]												
8 Dundee Utd	[illegible]												
9 Dunfermline	[illegible]												
10 Hearts	[illegible]												

FIRST DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goal diff
1 Hibernian	[illegible]												
2 Falkirk	[illegible]												
3 Airdrie	[illegible]												
4 Ayr	[illegible]												
5 St Mirren	[illegible]												
6 G Morton	[illegible]												
7 Clydebank	[illegible]												
8 Raith	[illegible]												
9 Hamilton	[illegible]												
10 Stranraer	[illegible]												

SECOND DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goal diff
1 Inverness C	[illegible]												
2 Livingston	[illegible]												
3 Clyde	[illegible]												
4 Alloa	[illegible]												
5 Partick	[illegible]												
6 Queen of S	[illegible]												
7 Stirling	[illegible]												
8 East Fife	[illegible]												
9 Arbroath	[illegible]												
10 Forfar	[illegible]												

THIRD DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goal diff
1 Ross County	[illegible]												
2 Stenhsmuir	[illegible]												
3 Brechin	[illegible]												
4 Dumbarton	[illegible]												
5 Albion	[illegible]												
6 Berwick	[illegible]												
7 East Stirling	[illegible]												
8 Queen's Pk	[illegible]												
9 Montrose	[illegible]												
10 Cowdenbth	[illegible]												

NATIONAL

LEAGUE OF WALES: [illegible]

VERNONS LOTTERY FOOTBALL GAME

RESULTS FROM SATURDAY'S MATCHES: There were seven score draws: Huddersfield v Birmingham; Walsall v Bristol Rovers; Wrexham v Burnley; Rotherham v Peterborough; Motherwell v Aberdeen; Ayr v St Mirren; Clyde v Arbroath. Payouts on seven, six and five score draws. Seven score draws: No winners. Six score draws: 64 winners each £1,692.50. Five score draws: 1129 winners each £5.

POOLS CHECK

[illegible]

Clarke short, a long

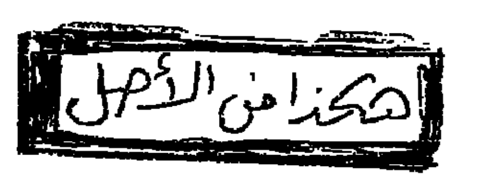
In-form Webb rivals in the s

EQUESTRIANISM

Speedy Ni

BASKETBALL

Sharks edge towards title



GOLF

Clarke gives his short game a long workout

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN ORLANDO

FOR THE best part of 2½ hours yesterday morning, Darren Clarke practised his golf with missionary zeal at the Bay Hill Club. Appropriately enough for a Sunday, he was doing penance for his bad play earlier in the week. He had a wedge in his hands and shot after shot arced away and travelled 70 or so yards to the flag he was aiming at.

Several balls hit their target but you would hardly have known from Clarke's demeanour. He just used the toe of a pitching wedge to roll another ball onto a patch of grass and hit that ball — and another and another.

Clarke was on the practice ground, the place the pros call "Heartbreak Hill". He was not happy about his short game in the first two rounds of the Bay Hill Invitational, where he had missed the halfway cut, and for Clarke there was only one remedy. That was work and more work for the man who is already one of the hardest-working players in Europe. Nothing distracted him. He hardly looked up.

Even when Lee Westwood, his friend, came to practise alongside and started talking football, Clarke carried on hitting balls. When someone shouted out Ireland's score against Scotland in the Five Nations Championship rugby match the previous day, Clarke merely grunted.

Colin Montgomerie wandered over and talked football with Westwood and Billy Foster, Clarke's caddie. "I am a member of the ABU club — Anybody But United," Montgomerie said.

Soon Tim Herron and Davis Love III would come to the driving range and rehearse the swings that enabled them to lead the tournament at 14 under par. Clarke ignored everybody. He was lost in a world of his own. Foster brought bucket after bucket of balls, 50 in each bucket, and it was well past 11am and a light rain was falling when Clarke finally stopped for a rest, having hit perhaps 450 balls. He lit a cigar, ate a cookie and drank a cup of coffee brought to him by Foster.

"If you hit it in the rough you have to be able to get it out and get it up and down," Clarke said. "Amateurs know that but it is just as true for professionals. If you practise your short game you can turn a 76 into a 72 and a 72 keeps you in a tournament while a 76 puts you out of it. At the moment my game is a long way from being right. Yesterday I went shopping. It was the first day for eight weeks I have not practised and I really enjoyed having a day off. Golf feels very difficult at the moment. It should be coming right by now, but it isn't.

"On Thursday I was doing not too badly and then took a double-bogey on the 9th, my 18th. I had 126 yards to the front of the green and I hit it 125 and the ball plugged in a bunker. On the 16th on Friday I had a simple shot to the green, but I was between a wedge and a nine-iron, I misjudged it and hit into the water.

"I have to get the short clubs into action. There is nothing better if you hit it into a bush than getting the ball out, getting up and down and going to the next tee. Everybody goes through bad spells. It is time mine ended."

He blew out a cloud of smoke from the big cigar he was smoking. "I'll keep going for a bit yet, head up to Jacksonville [for the Players Championship] tonight and do more of the same there tomorrow."

Evergreen Palmer, page 34

In-form Webb leaves rivals in the shade

BY PATRICIA DAVIES, IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA

BEFORE the final round of the Standard Register Ping tournament at Moon Valley here yesterday, Karrie Webb was 79 under par for the 22 rounds of golf that she has played so far this season.

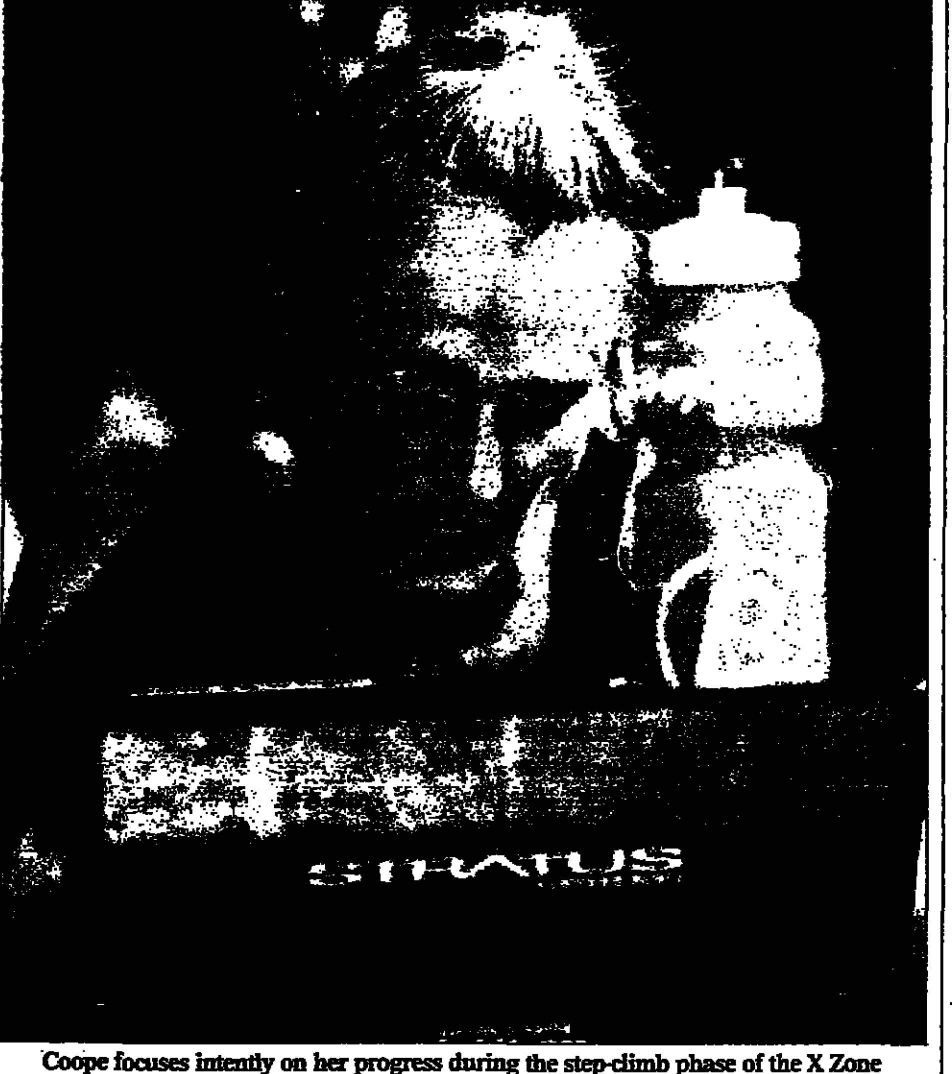
The Australian, from Ayr in Queensland, was 11 under par after 54 holes here with scores of 68, 68 and 69. She led by two shots from Lorie Kane, of Canada, and by four from Wendy Ward and Tina Barrett, both Americans.

In short, Webb, just 24, is in phenomenal form. At the Australian Masters, which she led from start to finish after an opening 63, she set a US tour record of 26 under par, which was all the more special for being at home in front of her friends and family.

So far she has won twice, been second once and — on her off weeks — slipped to seventh and eighth. She has won nearly $300,000 and was poised to add another $127,500, the first prize here, to take her career earnings past the $3 million mark in just over three seasons, a record eclipsing the five years that it took Annika Sorenstam.

The Swede, the world No 1, had a hole-in-one at the 2nd hole on Saturday but finished with a lacklustre 71 and made no impression on Webb. The Australian's technique and demeanour are so calm and unfussy that she almost compiles her scores by stealth, but her success is no surprise to her peers.

Kane watches Webb off the tee because her timing is so sweet and summed up her virtues: "When you have a golf swing, a game and an attitude like Karrie, you're going to have success. She's just a great athlete and a very good person, too."



Coope focuses intently on her progress during the step-climb phase of the X Zone

Coope reaches victory zone

BY DAVID POWELL

SARAH COOPE has won six British and six European *triathlon titles, finished third* in the Hawaii Ironman and given birth to three children. At 34, you would have thought she might welcome a rest. No chance.

Yesterday, Coope entered new territory at the Birmingham NEC for the X Zone, a competition which the organisers said would determine Britain's fittest man and woman. If the argument over whether a ten-discipline gymnasium challenge can settle such titles remains unresolved, there was no doubting the identity of the X Zone's first champion.

Coope won hands down, or, more to the point, chest out, stomach in. The section that had worried her was the rope climb but, with a Royal Marine assigned to each finalist to marshal and motivate, she need not have felt uneasy. The rope was the seventh discipline. "Get up there. Move it," her marine shouted at her. So she did.

Behind her was a 3,000 metres cycle, 30 push-ups, a 3,000 metres run, a set of chins, dips and bicep lifts, 2,000 metres of rowing and the tyres and beam coordination test. Ahead was a step climb, equivalent to the height of Blackpool Tower, another 5,000 metres cycle, and a shuttle run. Yet Coope would not accept that she was Britain's fittest woman. "I was the fittest person here," she said.

However, Kelly Holmes, the British 1,500 metres record-holder and a former Army physical training instructor, argued on the side of the organisers. "I really do believe the winner deserves that title," Holmes said.

Glenn Catley, who fought for the World Boxing Council *super-middleweight title last* year, agreed. Hywel Davies, a teacher from Leamington, had won other similar competitions and said that it was "beyond any doubt" that he was Britain's fittest man. "It is a fair claim," Catley, who represented boxing in the inter-sport challenge, said.

Women's rowing annihilated men's teams from professional squash, rugby union and rugby league. The promoter had calculated from world records that women perform to 88 per cent of the men's standards and the disciplines were weighted accordingly to provide a level test.

The women's rowing five included Cath Bishop and Dot Blackie, runners-up in the world championships coxless pairs last year. Try telling Bishop that rowing is not Britain's fittest sport. "Everybody is telling us that and we accept it," she said.

TENNIS

Rusedski fires effective but tame warning

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN KEY BISCAYNE, FLORIDA

IT IS taking time but, slowly, Greg Rusedski is beginning to warm to life in Florida. After his less than secure opening performance at the Lipton championships, he eased into the last 16 with a simple 6-3, 6-4 win over Hendrik Dreekman, of Germany. It was not flashy, it was not impressive, but it was nice and safe and that is what the Great Britain No 2 needs at the moment. The fireworks can wait for later in the week.

Dreekman is one of those players who never really seems to get any further in the general scheme of things. Ranked No 102 in the world, that is about his level, although he does have one win over Rusedski to his name. That, however, was three years ago at the US Open and Rusedski has learnt a lot since then. Yesterday, although the first service was not particularly reliable, he managed eight aces and enough decent volleys to put Dreekman in his place. He now plays either Nicolas Kiefer or Pat Rafter for a place in the last eight.

After two years in semi-retirement and a history of aches, pains and maladies *that has caused him to miss* more tournaments than he has played, Boris Becker has decided to start his Wimbledon preparations early. Although he said, in 1997, that he would not play another grand-slam event, the smell of the grass has whetted Becker's appetite for one last crack at SW19 and the hard work starts now — or rather, it did. On Saturday night, the old boy was upstaged 7-5, 6-0 by Marat Safin, one of the new pretenders to his crown.

Everything was going well for the first half an hour before Becker dropped his service. From keeping pace with the young gun, Becker lost his rhythm and did not win another game. "I think it's down to not playing any matches in the last couple of months," Becker said. That is a situation he intends to rectify before he bids farewell to the All England Club. "It all depends on being able to play a couple of tournaments — singles and doubles — each week *to improve," he said. "The key* for me is to stay injury-free and play the next two or three months in a row."

It will take rather more than a few extra tournaments to prepare Carlos Moyà for the vagaries of grass court tennis — at the moment, any form of the game is causing him problems as he comes to terms with his elevated status to world No 1. Still, he is an awfully popular player and, yesterday, even the umpire was willing to help him in his third-round encounter with Jason Stoltenberg.

A break up in the third set, Moyà lost his lead and was rather fortunate to get it back a couple of games later, with the most dubious of over-rules, to sneak into the next round.

Agassi vows never to play for US again

HE MAY not be a part of the team, he may not even be a part of the tournament any more, but you just cannot keep Andre Agassi down (Alix Ramsay writes).

Along with Pete Sampras, he has long since ruled himself out of contention for the Davis Cup tie in Birmingham, but on Saturday he was determined to have his say. Getting stuck into a row with the United States Tennis Association (USTA), he has vowed never to play for his country again.

The USTA dispensed with George Fareed, the Davis Cup team doctor, and Agassi is furious. "George goes to the wall for you during Davis Cup weeks, the players loved him, appreciated him," Agassi said. "It's just another example of how the players aren't consulted about anything that happens. I never say never, but I'm never playing again."

EQUESTRIANISM: GERMAN RIDER QUALIFIES FOR WORLD CUP IN TENSE FINALE

Speedy Nieberg has the final say

FROM JENNY MACARTHUR IN 'S-HERTOGENBOSCH

LARS NIEBERG, a member of Germany's 1996 Olympic gold medal-winning team, secured his place in the World Cup final next month after a dramatic win on Loro Piana Esprit in the Dutch qualifying round here yesterday.

The former national champion relegated the Dutch favourite, Emile Hendrix, on Finesse, to second place by 0.91sec and Trevor Coyle, on Mary McCann's brilliant stallion, Cruising — on which the Irish rider won both the Millstreet and Geneva qualifying rounds — took third place, just ahead of his compatriot, Peter Charles, on Traxdata Carnavelly.

Only four of the 38 horses in the event were clear in the opening round. Most problems occurred down the final line in which a big oxer, fence 12, was followed by five strides to the combination, the final fence. Geoff Billington, one of the two Britons in the class, faulted at both fences on Virtual Village It's Otto. "I thought when I walked the course he'd cope with it easily," Billington said. "If I had to do it again I'd try to put an extra stride in before the combination."

John Whitaker, the other Briton, did exactly that on Virtual Village Heyman, but to his frustration, he had incurred four faults at fence 8, a triple bar. "It was probably the easiest fence on the course," Whitaker said. Fortunately, he already has enough points to secure his place in the final, though Billington, who is placed fifteenth in the European League, from which the top 19 qualify, needs a few more points at one of the last two qualifying rounds to make certain of his place.

In the jump-off, Coyle had the disadvantage of going first. Neatly over the first two fences, he tried to save time with an acute turn into fence 3A, a set of upright planks, but Cruising slithered to a halt in front of the fence, incurring three faults.

Hendrix, seeking his first win in a qualifier, made no mistake on Finesse and had the packed Brabanthalle thumping the floor with approval as he clocked a clear round in 31.60sec. When Charles hit fence 4 there was a sigh of relief from the crowd, but their euphoria was shortlived. Nieberg, the last to go, sped round in breathtaking style to finish in 30.69.

Results, page 39

Rider's case to be heard

POLLY PHILLIPPS, the British three-day-event rider whose horse Coral Cove tested positive for a banned substance after the world championships in Rome in October, will have her case heard by the judicial committee of the International Equestrian Federation on April 29. If Phillipps's breach of medication control is upheld, Britain will lose the team bronze medal she won at the championships and her qualification for the Sydney Olympic Games, although there is a last chance to qualify for the Games at the European championships in September.

BASKETBALL

Sharks edge towards title

SHEFFIELD SHARKS are now overwhelming favourites to win the Budweiser League after following up the 111-109 double overtime win over Manchester Giants on Friday with an 82-70 victory over Leicester Riders on Saturday (Nicholas Harling writes).

Their satisfaction was complete with the news that Todd Cauthorn had escaped a nasty fall against Leicester with nothing worse than severe bruising to his knee, and that their closest rivals, the Manchester Giants, had lost 66-64 at home to London Towers.

"It has been a very good weekend for us," Chris Finch, the Sharks coach, said. "The players were tired after the game against Manchester, but somehow they found it within themselves to produce again."

Without Cauthorn, their 6ft 8in forward, the Sharks struggled. "It was not the prettiest of affairs," Finch said, after seeing his team trail 48-47, but Travis Conlan led the Sharks home with 19 points, followed by Ian McKinney with 16 and Wil Johnson with 15.

SPORT IN BRIEF

■ **MOTOR RALLYING:** Colin McRae started the fourth round of the world rally championship in Oporto yesterday with a 50kg weight penalty, which could lose him a quarter of a second a kilometre on the 400-kilometre Rally of Portugal. His Ford Focus has had 15kg shaved off since its last outing in Europe in February, but it will not be until the Rally of New Zealand in July that the car will be at fighting weight. McRae yesterday set the fastest time on the opening 3.2-kilometre spectator stage near Oporto.

■ **ROWING:** In weekend races on the Tideway, Oxford met Queen's Tower, a crew with seven Great Britain internationals on board. In a race from Putney to Chiswick Steps, Oxford won by two thirds of a length. Cambridge faced an Austrian crew that included five internationals and won a race that had to be restarted by four lengths.

BOWLS: Mark Royal, 24, from Stowmarket survived three close matches to win the Warner Holidays All England Champion of Champions indoor title at Gunton Hall Village, Lowestoft last night. Royal overcame Robert Newman, of Reading, 21-19 in the final.

■ **GOLF:** A spirited rally by Cambridge in the second-day singles could not prevent Oxford from retaining the title by a margin of 4½-9½ in the University Match at Royal Cinque Ports, Kent. Ben Keogh, the Oxford captain, shared, with Dave Selchen, the biggest foursome win, 11 and 9.

FOOTBALL: Doncaster Belles will meet Arsenal, the holders, in the semi-finals of the FA Women's Cup after defeating Croydon 2-0 at Armthorpe Welfare yesterday. Two early first-half goals from Vicky Exley and Karen Walker, the England internationals, killed off a spirited Croydon challenge.

CYCLING: Andrei Tchmil, of Belgium, survived an early visit by the International Cycling Union's drug testers to win the opening Milan San Remo, the opening round of the 1999 World Cup series on Saturday. Tchmil was one of 32 riders to be blood-tested by the UCI medical inspectors at 5am.

CRICKET

Four wickets for Elworthy

STEVE ELWORTHY'S second four-wicket haul of the match helped take South Africa to the verge of victory at the end of the fourth day's play in the third Test against New Zealand at Wellington yesterday.

Needing 276 runs to make South Africa bat again, the home side finished the day on 217 for seven wickets, still 59 runs in arrears. After Hansie Cronje, the South African captain, had declared at the overnight score of 498 for eight, New Zealand soon lost the wickets of Bryan Young, Roger Twose and Matt Horne.

Nathan Astle and Gary Stead revived the innings with a partnership of 65 until Elworthy trapped Stead for 33. Astle, who was dropped three times, also fell to the same bowler for 62 as Elworthy finished with 4-58 from 22 overs. Paul Adams, the wrist spinner, bowled Chris Harris for 41 shortly before the close while Adam Parore's innings ended with a spectacular, one-handed catch by Jonty Rhodes.

Scoreboard, page 39

Five Nations Championship: Scotland's renaissance opens up a window of opportunity

Paris offers romantic conclusion



BY MARK SOUSTER

FOR once, Scotland will travel to Paris in three weeks more in expectation than hope of a victory that could clinch the Five Nations Championship for the first time since 1990. The final *outcome depends upon whether* Wales can also dent English grand-slam ambitions the following day at Wembley. In this season of surprises, be prepared to expect the unexpected.

Ireland left Murrayfield well beaten and full of admiration for what Scotland have achieved. They have scored 11 tries in the championship this *season. From a Scottish per*spective, it is an almost unheard of statistic yet emphasises their transformation.

Scotland can win in Paris because they keep the ball well. *They have a fast pack of* forwards, who ruck superbly. They also have the best exponent of lineout jumping in Britain. As well as securing his own ball, Scott Murray stole *four Ireland throws.*

The by-product of Scotland's success in a fast, furious helter-skelter of an international at Murrayfield is that many players have placed them*selves in the shop window. Jim* Telfer, the coach,and John Rutherford and Hugh Campbell, the backs' and forwards' coaches respectively, have fashioned a team that is already good and destined to improve further by the World Cup. The difficulty will be keeping them in Scotland if the right structure is not put in place.

Several had publicly intimated they will move if nothing changes, once their contracts with the Scottish Rugby Union expire after the World Cup. What they seek — more than money — is regular, high-intensity competition that, under the present two super-district set-up, is denied to them. It is *imperative that the four-dis*trict system, abandoned for financial expediency 18 months ago, is reintroduced. Lord MacKay's independent report on the structure of the *game is due in June which* may well be too late. Further performances such as this — Scotland's third home victory in succession — will lend weight to the argument. They were always the dominant side.

Gregor Townsend, who has found that John Leslie has taken some of the responsibility from his shoulders, had probably his best match for Scotland at fly half and scored a try for the third successive game — one more in Paris will equal Iain Smith's record from the all-conquering 1925 side.

Telfer's one concern was a defensive weakness in midfield that was exposed by Rob *Henderson, the replacement* for Jonathan Bell. But Ireland's deficiencies were far greater, readily exposed by the thrust, pace and quick passing of Scotland's threequarters.

In attack, they pose a real threat and are taking their chances, the crucial difference between the sides. Two second-half tries in three minutes, by Cammy Murray and Stuart Grimes, had their origins in the Scotland 22 and graphically illustrated their ability to counter-attack at speed and with precision.

When Ireland enjoyed periods of ascendancy either side of half-time, prompted, inevitably, by Humphreys, their attacks were laboured at best. Scotland's defence on their own line was watertight. Ireland's reliance on the charges of Keith Wood became increasingly predictable and easy to *defend. His runs were ever* more lateral and he was invariably driven back in the tackle, giving Ireland's backs even less time to unpick Scotland's well-marshalled defence. *When a move broke down,* there was no contingency plan, no player, perhaps with the exception of Humphreys, to make a snap judgment.

Dion O'Cuinnegain, who stood out on a day of mediocrity for Ireland, made the first of several breaks. He chipped Glenn Metcalfe, who obstructed him. Humphreys went on to touch down anyway, but Derek Bevan, the referee, awarded a penalty try because Martin Leslie had pulled at the fly half's shirt in the ensuing chase. That was about the only thing that did not go Scotland's way. These are exciting times for them.

JAMIE MCDONALD / ALLSPORT



Kenny Logan, the Scotland winger, escapes the desperate clutches of Conor O'Shea, Ireland's full back, as another attack ensues

HOW THE PLAY UNFOLDED AT MURRAYFIELD

Minute	FIRST HALF	Score	Minute	SECOND HALF	Score
1	Penalty try Con: Humphreys	0-7	57	Pen: Humphreys	15-13
6	Try: C Murray	5-7	58	Try: C Murray Con: Logan	22-13
20	Pen: Logan	8-7	60	Try: Grimes	27-13
24	Try: Townsend Con: Logan	15-7	76	Pen: Logan	30-13
32	Pen: Humphreys	15-10			

SCORERS:
SCOTLAND: Tries: C Murray 2, Townsend, Grimes. Conversions: Logan 2. Penalty goals : Logan 2 .
IRELAND: Try: Penalty try: Conversion: Humphreys.
Penalty goals: Humphreys 2

SCOTLAND: G H Metcalfe (Glasgow Caledonians), C A Murray (Edinburgh Reivers, rep: S L Longstaff, Glasgow Caledonians 75), A V Tait (Edinburgh Reivers), J A Leslie (Sanix), K M Logan (Wasps), G P J Townsend (Brive), G Armstrong (Newcastle, rep: I T Fairley, Edinburgh Reivers 79), T J Smith (Glasgow Caledonians, rep: D I W Hilton, Bath 39), G C Bulloch (Glasgow Caledonians, rep: S J Brotherstone, Edinburgh Reivers 77), S Murray (Bedford), S B Grimes (Glasgow Caledonians), P Walton (Newcastle, rep: A C Pountney, Northampton, 67), E W Peters (Bath).

IRELAND: C M P O'Shea (London Irish), J P Bishop (Londo Irish), K M Maggs (Bath), J C Bell (Dungannon, rep: R A J Henderson, Wasps 63), G Dempsey (Terenure College), D G Humphreys (Dungannon), C D McGuinness (St Mary's College, rep: C D Scally, UCD 75), P M Clohessy (Young Munster), K G M Wood (Harlequins), P S Wallace (Saracens), P S Johns (Saracens), J W Davidson (Castres), D O' Cuinneagain (Sale), A J Ward (Ballynahinch, rep: T Brennan, St Mary 's College 64), E R P Miller (Terenure Collge, rep: V C P Co||ige, 16).
Referee: D W Bevan (Wales).

Townsend gets kick out of pushing limits

Alasdair Reid on the player who has done most to revive Scotland's fortunes

It was a simple kick, a standard task for the modern-day fly half. Awarded a penalty 20 yards from the Ireland line, all Gregor Townsend had to do was punt the ball into touch to give Scotland an attacking lineout near the right corner. Nobody would have minded if he had aimed it a few cautious yards short of the flag. Nobody, that is, except himself. Caution, you see, is not what Gregor Townsend is about.

Caution makes you stand deep, away from the heavy traffic, playing the percentages with one eye on the safety net. Caution, in other words, is a denial of everything that Townsend stands for. The lazy sweep of his boot gave no hint of the breathtaking precision of the action. The ball flew into touch with inches to spare. That moment, as much as what followed, summed Townsend up. Martin Leslie secured possession near the tail, Gary Armstrong was held up as he drove for the line, John Leslie switched the attack to the narrow side and Townsend raced over to score.

It was his fourth try in as many games at Murrayfield and his third in successive matches in the Five Nations Championship this year. Were he to score another in Paris in three weeks' time, Townsend would join a select band of players who have scored tries in every round of the tournament.

The achievement would be one to savour, but not so *much as to overshadow every*thing else he has done in the competition this year. From the shadows of fitful pre-Christmas form, he has emerged, eager and confident, as the talismanic presence in this resurgent Scotland side.

Townsend has always tested the faith of his followers. Even as a schoolboy, tales of his wondrous gifts were usually qualified with the admission that his gaffes could be horrendous. Since his first appearance for Scotland, in 1993, he has cut a sharp divide through Scottish rugby between those who marvelled at his talents and those who considered him a dangerous liability. The division may still exist, but his detractors' camp has shrunk to a discredited rump. On Saturday, it was remarkable to consider that he had only reclaimed his favoured fly half position when Duncan Hodge broke his leg early in the second half of the match against Wales six weeks ago.

Within two minutes of moving in from centre, however, he had latched onto an error by Robert Howley and sprinted 60 metres to score. In that instant, both the game and the season turned for Scotland. Townsend has been in commanding form since. Against Ireland, he tormented the opposition with the swiftness of his break, his subtle variation and even the force of his tackling.

In one memorable moment, he crashed into Keith Wood and drove the powerful Irish hooker back five yards. Wood had praised Townsend's versatility and his ability to do the unexpected before the match, but he must have rued those qualities as the Scotsman drove him into the turf.

Townsend has rarely been accused of consistency, but he appears to have found it. For a start, he is playing behind a dynamic pack, capable of *producing the fast ball* with which he can do most damage. More significantly, perhaps, the arrival of John Leslie at inside centre has taken a burden off his shoulders. Perfection is a dangerous concept in sport. Its strict application precludes the possibility of any improvement whatsoever. But Townsend, in this form, is the nearest thing British rugby has to the perfect ten.

Jenkins claims a place at table of elite



Jenkins: scored 30 points to beat his previous record

Italy 21
Wales 60

FROM GERALD DAVIES IN TREVISO

THE difficulty during the past fortnight for Graham Henry was in looking to his players to summon up a modicum of that spirit, invested so magnificently in their victory against France. Would it come when he called for it?

"This has been a grey area for us," the Wales coach said. "We didn't know whether we could play the way we wished to after our win in Paris. We didn't do so after our other matches against Argentina *and South Africa and so lost to* both Scotland and Ireland." Against Italy the players did not let him, or themselves, down. This was another fine performance.

However, in the aftermath of this resounding victory, there is a nervousness that still attends this Wales team. There is nothing new in this, you may well respond, in the *light of the many anxieties to* which Welsh rugby has been so desperately prone. Except that now it is beginning to be of a different texture. For the first time in the careers of all these players, the condition is one of nervous excitement: not one born of irritability or of *feelings of inadequacy or in*competence.

Rather, they are aware as a result of two winning performances — the first, in Paris, of brilliance, the latest, in Treviso, of a more calculating efficiency — that they may be causing those who have given them the cold shoulder in the past to sit up and take notice. This is a new experience. They should savour it while they may for they will soon, against England, be put to the test.

Against a country that is notoriously difficult to beat on their own patch, Wales are one of three teams, with New Zealand and South Africa, to have accumulated 60 points or more in Italy. There were personal records established, too. Neil Jenkins's 30 points beat his previous record of 24 points for the most scored in one match and brought the total points in his career to 745. Thus he leapfrogs Gavin Hastings in the table of highest points scorers and stands sec*ond behind Michael Lynagh,* who has 911. Meanwhile, Gareth Thomas became the sixth player to score four tries in one match for Wales.

These are the bare bones of a game that was developing into a fine contest by the interval. For 17 minutes, the home team held the lead that they might have extended had not Sgorlon, close to Wales's line, decided to go alone for a score and ignore four men outside him.

But the careless errors of the first half disappeared for the visitors when they had the wind at their backs and a strengthening scrum. Thus *they were able to add 42 points* in the second period. "This season," Henry said, "we have been on the right track in some games and on the wrong track in others. Without the pressure of the Five Nations Championship we needed to stay on the right track against Italy."

TOP SCORERS

911	M Lynagh (Aus) 72 caps
745 (41)	N Jenkins (Wales) 53 (3)
733 (66)	G Hastings (Scot) 67 (6)
672	D Dominguez (It) 49
645	G Fox (NZ) 46

Points for British Lions in brackets

SCORERS: Wales: Tries: C Quinnell, (6min), Thomas 4 (33, 44, 67, 79), Jenkins (6), Howley (29) Conversions: Jenkins 5. Penalty goals: Jenkins 5 (10, 29, 41, 52, 56). Italy: Tries: Martin (14), Scaglia (74) Conversion: Dominguez. Penalty goals: Dominguez 3 (16min, 21, 38)

SCORING SEQUENCE (Italy first): 0-5, 0-8, 7-8, 10-8, 13-8, 13-11, 13-18, 16-18 (half-time), 16-21, 16-28, 16-35, 16-38, 16-41, 16-48, 16-53, 21-53, 21-60.

ITALY: J Pertile (Roma) F Roselli (Roma), C Stoica (Narbonne, rep M Baroni, Padova, 22min), L Martin (Bègles), D Dallan (Benetton); D Dominguez (Stade Français), A Troncon (Benetton); M Cuttitta (Calvisano), A Moscardi (Benetton), F Properzi (Benetton, rep A Castellani Roma, 55min), V Cristofoletto (Benetton; rep S Stocco, Padova, 50min), M Giacheri (West Hartlepool), M Giovanelli (Narbonne, captain), A Sgorlon (Benetton, rep: S Saviozzi, Benetton, 69), D Scaglia (Benetton).

WALES: S Howarth (Sale); G Thomas (Cardiff), M Taylor (Swansea, rep. N Boobyer, Llanelli, 69min), S Gibbs (Swansea), D James (Pontypridd, rep. N Walne, Richmond, 70); N Jenkins (Pontypridd), R Howley (Cardiff, captain; rep: D Llewellyn, Ebbw Vale, 75); P Rogers (London Irish; rep: D Morris, Swansea, 57), G Jenkins (Swansea; rep B Williams, Richmond, 70), B Evans (Swansea), C Quinnell (Richmond; rep: M Voyle, Llanelli, 70), C Wyatt (Llanelli), C Charvis (Swansea; rep. G Lewis, Pontypridd, 75), B Sinkinson (Neath), S Quinnell (Llanelli).
Referee: R Dickson (Scotland).





Rees and Bracken miss Wales match

BY DAVID HANDS AND MARK SOUSTER

ENGLAND will have to change their back line yet again when they play Wales for their grand-slam attempt at Wembley on April 11: David Rees is likely to be out for up to four weeks with a sprained knee and Kyran Bracken damaged a ligament, which makes him very doubtful for the decisive encounter of England's Five Nations Championship.

Rees slid under a tackle and fell awkwardly. His obvious replacement on the right wing is Tony Underwood, who has the requisite experience and played in the A international *at Redruth on Friday. Consid*eration may also be given to Leon Lloyd, developing fast on Leicester's wing.

Bracken hopes that his knee will have healed in two *to three weeks, but clearly he* will play no rugby for Saracens in the intervening period and Matt Dawson must be favoured to retain the scrum-half position against Wales.

Richard Hill, the Saracens flanker, suffered a dead leg which forced him off in the second half, but that should respond swiftly to treatment.

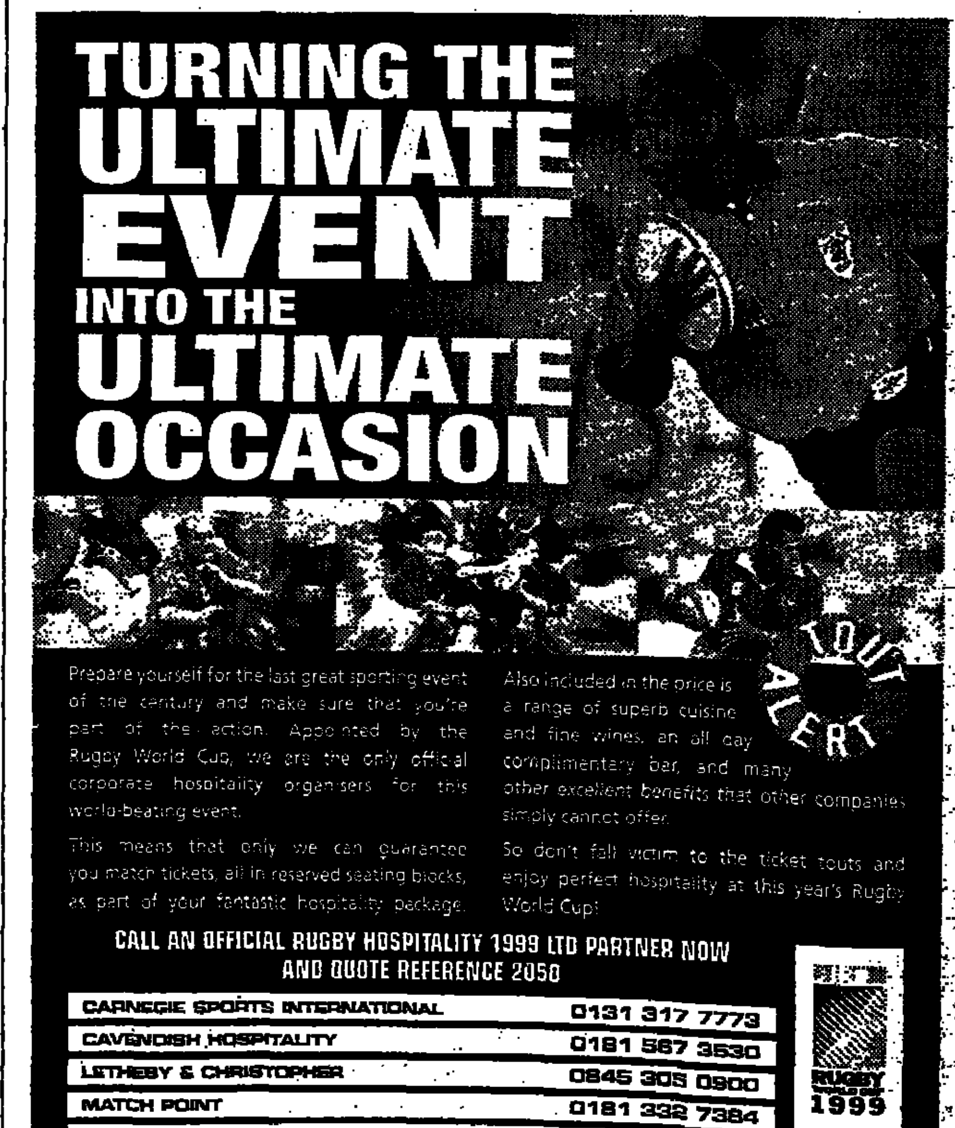
The other unusual injury was that to Colin Hawke, the referee from New Zealand, who tore his calf muscle late in the first half and was replaced by Jim Fleming.

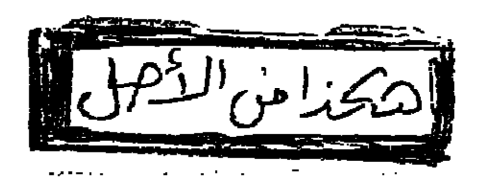
Tom Smith, the Scotland prop, is expected to be out of rugby for two months after breaking the fibula in his right leg at Murrayfield. Smith sees a specialist today to ascertain the severity of the injury but it is hoped that he will be able to tour South Africa this summer.

His was the most serious injury from a bruising match that also saw Gary Armstrong, the Scotland scrum *half, and Gordon Bulloch, the* hooker, replaced in the second half. Armstrong suffered a bang on his left knee and Bulloch a dead leg that enabled Steve Brotherstone to *win his first cap; both should* be fit to face France.

Eric Miller, the Ireland No 8, who limped off after 16 minutes, twisted his ankle but will see a consultant today to *see if there is any ligament* damage.

□ The England women's rugby team survived late pressure from France to run out 13-8 victors at Worcester yesterday. France led for nearly an hour after Estelle Sartini had kicked an early goal and Carole Durand-Laurier, the lock, scored from a maul on 14 minutes, but England's size advantage eventually took its toll. Gill Burns, the No 8, kicked two penalties before Nicky Crawford, the replacement winger, beat her marker *to score the decisive try.*





Catt falls short by getting his attacking lines crossed

MICHAEL LYNAGH

The defensive coaching is undoubtedly working; what England need now is an offensive coach. Their inability to transfer the dominance they have enjoyed over the past two games against France and Ireland into points, especially tries, must be of serious concern to Clive Woodward and his team.

That said, it must be comforting trying to solve this mystery having won games rather than trying to rise above the pack after defeats. England, as they had done against Ireland, always looked like they were going to win against France. Had they taken only half of the opportunities on offer, it could have been a 20 to 30-point victory. You don't get many opportunities in international rugby and when the chance comes, it must be seized on immediately with venom.

The English pack strangled the life out of their French opponents. They then set about trying to ruin little Thomas Castaignède's afternoon by running at him, involving him in a defensive role in the process, detracting from his obvious attacking skills. For a little guy, his courage in the tackle embarrassed some of his bigger and supposedly more physical team-mates.

What are the problems for England? Why can't they put the opposition away? The approach work was good, but seemed to fade away to nothing as the tryline approached.

Had Mike Catt scored just before half-time, it may have been a different story. It would have made the score 16-0 and the floodgates may have opened after the interval as the French spirit would have been broken.

When there is a three-man overlap, ten metres out, it is a simple case of you must score. Catt, who had a reasonable game and mixed his options well, putting in some nice, probing kicks, has one serious flaw in his fly-half play. He crabs across field when delivering the ball to his backs.

'When the chance comes, it must be seized on immediately with venom'

This has the effect of crowding the players outside him and sending the defence directly with the ball to the intended receiver. By doing this, the defence is not fixed and the angle he creates does not give the receiver many options other than to take the tackle or continue on the same crossfield angle to escape the defence coming across.

It is fundamental that the fly half must run at the opposition and attract their attention, rather than running with the pass. Someone in the England set-up needs to sit him down, show him this and explain it to him. Until this is done, the backs will not function to their potential. Ironically, Catt is at his best when he is running at the opposition, especially from the lineout; he just needs to take a similar line and pass at the same time.

Interestingly, two of the three times England crossed the France tryline came from kicks. The French, who had two opportunities to score points the whole afternoon, such was England's defensive dominance, took one of these and it also came from a kick.

France seem to have a strange preoccupation with the blind side. My little friend, Philippe Carbonneau, was at times trying to fit what seemed like half the team down a postage stamp-size short side. This played into the English hands. They could commit one or two players to the tackle, while the rest lined out across the field.

I would like to see some statistics on how many times sides that kick to touch from penalties, in lieu of shooting for goal, get the ball across the tryline. This would be another job for the England offensive coach. He needs to come up with ploys that would increase the chances of scoring from these decisions. England on occasions made the correct decision to try for extra points, yet failed to convert. They need to come up with options other than just pushing really hard.

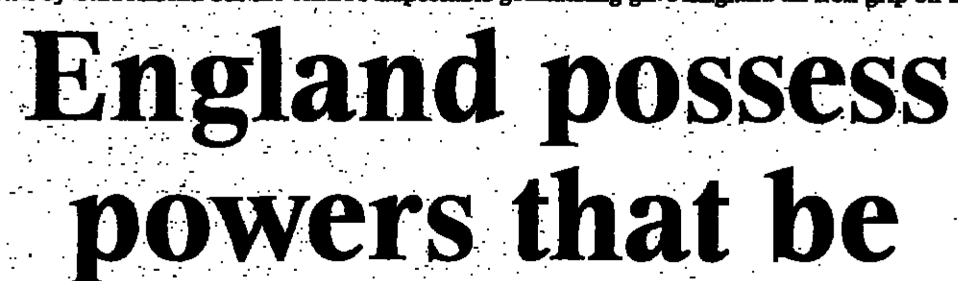
It was a strange afternoon, one that promised so much yet by the end had delivered precious little that we did not already know. The French team were subdued, Martin Johnson was on his best behaviour and the biggest tactical substitution was that of the referee. The crowd laboured to achieve any sort of atmosphere in a sterile Twickenham. Maybe if England could have got across the tryline a few times, the feeling would have been different. Get the attack coach in there quickly; the engine is there, but the bodywork needs some heavy panel-beating to knock it into shape.

Five Nations Championship: France kicked into submission

PHOTOGRAPHS: MARC ASPLAND



Wilkinson is brought down by Carbonneau but the centre's impeccable goalkicking gave England an iron grip on the match at Twickenham



England possess powers that be



By David Hands
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

IT WOULD be easy to write off Saturday at Twickenham as another somewhat tedious day at the England office. When all was over, there was little sense of excitement or lip-licking expectation at the prospect of a twelfth grand slam being filed away in the cabinet if Wales are overcome at Wembley on the final weekend of the Five Nations Championship, or of significant progress having been achieved since the championship opened.

Players and management queued up to reveal that the atmosphere in the changing-room was as flat as a pancake, that they were as frustrated as the crowd that so many chances created had been jettisoned. But it is important to place this match, and Clive Woodward's regime, in context. For four years France have been a significant, indeed unbeatable, hurdle, so there was pleasure to be derived from victory against a strangely quiescent opponent.

More to the point is the rollercoaster existence since Woodward became England coach: the heavy duty against the southern-hemisphere powers, the sweeping changes in personnel and attitude, the mistakes made by a raw management team against a backdrop of turbulence in the English game. Supporters have cried out for stability in England and, in one area at least, it has been achieved: the national team has won six out of seven games this season and the defeat was by a single point.

This is not the most exciting, the most glamorous of international teams, nor will it be by the time the World Cup comes around this autumn, but glamour has never been an English characteristic. Instead, there is a settled dimension to England, a sense of the game they are trying to play that wafts tantalisingly before us and then drifts away and leaves only the pragmatism of seven well-struck penalty goals by Jonathan Wilkinson.

"We know there is room for improvement, we created chances that we totally bombed," Woodward said. "But this job is about winning." Not about style or performance? Not any more, apparently, which means that England have cottoned on to international reality. Not that Woodward has trimmed his ambitions for his side — "We have to create a style where people playing against us don't know what to expect," he said — but he knows there is a prerequisite.

Whether he has time and games enough to build on that primary level may depend on whether Will Greenwood, the injured Leicester centre, can be restored to health and what then happens to Wilkinson. Woodward values the teenager's play at centre, never mind the nerveless goalkicking that allowed him to equal the record of Simon Hodgkinson (1991) and Rob Andrew, his mentor (1995), of seven penalties in a match.

Geoff Cooke, the former England manager, said on Saturday that the World Cup was not within reach while Mike Catt remains at fly half. Against France in the Lloyds TSB championship, Catt's ledger was about 50-50, which is not high enough for an international pivot. He might have scored two tries but he came away with none as England opened up a side whose concentration on defence was so entire that they seemed to lose their way in attack.

The same was true for Jeremy Guscott, who remains a classic centre but misses that vital half-yard in speed. As the interval neared, with England leading 9-0, it seemed almost impossible that England could not score a try, first when Hill charged down Philippe Carbonneau's clearance, only to cannon into a colleague with a way to the line clear, then when Catt had a three-one overlap outside him and stumbled in going for the line.

The nature of the game might have changed at that stage, but it did not. So the afternoon demonstrated that England lack overall pace and the ability to make the killing pass, that they should rethink the fashionable kick to the corner for a close-range lineout, but that they have a proven goalkicker, muscular forwards and a defence out of the top drawer.

The first two, you might argue, England have invariably possessed, so what else is new? There is a variety to their game, the mixture of kicks, the willingness to handle that was let down by the inaccuracy of their work at close quarters. Woodward's game requires, above all, precision and on Saturday it was absent, but the overall approach contrasted with that of France: the player running their show was not the elusive, adventurous Thomas Castaignède but Carbonneau, his half-back partner.

That show, time and again, took France down the narrow side, where they produced some miraculous passing but became too predictable. It was as though the millimetrical miss by Xavier Garbajosa midway through the first half had convinced them it was the way to go; a flicker of four passes behind a scrum within a confined space gave Garbajosa sight of the corner and he beat Catt's tackle, but Matt Perry pushed his feet into touch as he plunged for the touchdown.

Nor was there any hint of French testiness as penalties rained down on them at the ratio of two to one. "We made too many mistakes, lost too much ball," Raphael Ibanez, the captain, said. It was as though France had listened too hard to their coaches telling them that the World Cup was what mattered, just as England, by their own account, had too much respect for what was, on the day, a modest France XV.

The game's one try came when it made no difference. Carbonneau kicked into midfield, where Perry should have committed himself to the catch. He hesitated, the bounce of the ball deceived him and Franck Comba snatched the score that did not even amount to consolation. It did serve to annoy England still further and will ensure that the dead hand they lay upon Wales next month will be all the harsher.

Guscott attempts to hand off a strong French challenge

HOW THEY STAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	3	3	0	0	72	46	6
Scotland	3	2	0	1	84	57	4
France	3	1	0	2	53	64	2
Wales	3	1	0	2	77	95	2
Ireland	4	1	0	3	68	90	2

RESULTS

Feb 6: Ireland 9 France 10, Scotland 33 Wales 20,
Feb 20: England 24 Scotland 21, Wales 23 Ireland 29,
Mar 6: Ireland 15 England 27, France 33 Wales 34.
Mar 20: England 21 France 10. Scotland 30 Ireland 13.

FIXTURES

Apr 10: France v Scotland, Paris.
Apr 11: Wales v England, Wembley.

Minute	FIRST HALF	Score	Minute	SECOND HALF	Score
3	Penalty goal: Wilkinson	3-0	42	Pen: Castaignède	[illegible]
5	Pen: Wilkinson	6-0	45	Pen: Wilkinson	[illegible]
19	Pen: Wilkinson	9-0	64	Pen: Wilkinson	[illegible]
			68	Pen: Wilkinson	[illegible]
			72	Pen: Wilkinson	[illegible]
			83	Try: Comba Con: Castaignède	[illegible]

SCORERS:

England: Penalty goals: Wilkinson 7

France: Try: Comba Conversion: Castaignède. Penalty goal: Castaignède

ENGLAND: M B Perry (Bath); D L Rees (Sale; rep: N D Beal, Northampton, 65min), J P Wilkinson (Newcastle), J C Guscott (Bath), D D Luger (Harlequins); M J Catt (Bath), K P P Bracken (Saracens; rep: M J S Dawson, Northampton, 35); J Leonard (Harlequins), R Cockerill (Leicester), D J Garforth (Leicester; rep: V E Ubogu, Bath, 79), M O Johnson (Leicester), T A K Rodber (Northampton/Army), R A Hill (rep: M E Corry, Leicester, 50), N A Back (Leicester), L B N Dallaglio (Wasps, captain)

FRANCE: E Ntamack (Toulouse); X Garbajosa (Toulouse), P Giordani (Dax), F Comba (Stade Francais), C Dominici (Stade Francais); T Castaignède (Castres), P Carbonneau (Brive); S Marconnet (Stade Francais; rep: C Califano, Toulouse, 48), R Ibanez (Perpignan, captain), F Tournaire (Toulouse), O Brouzet (Begles-Bordeaux), F Pelous (Toulouse; rep: D Auradou, Stade Francais, 66), T Lièvremont (Perpignan; rep: M Raynaud, Narbonne, 66), R Castel (Beziers), C Juillet (Stade Francais).

Referee: C J Hawke (New Zealand; rep: J M Fleming, Scotland, 39)

Woodward keeps his Sir Galahad in check

Julian Muscat on the tactics used by the England coach

If not exactly blinking under the headlights, Jonny Wilkinson emerged from England's obdurate triumph as something of a reluctant hero. The laurels rested squarely on his teenage shoulders after seven successful penalties had dispatched the Twickenham faithful with another victory for substance over style.

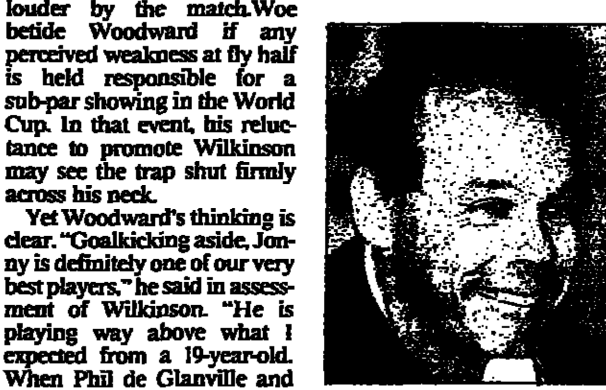
Wilkinson's metronomic accuracy had endorsed the plaudits, many from esteemed sources, identifying him as a buccaneer of infinite promise. Yet the man himself said only that he was "flattered and honoured" to be firmly ensconced within the England fold. As with his performance on the field, Wilkinson's post-match thoughts accentuated the team ethic. He was determined to deflect the stellar status accorded those with the golden boot. All of which has the makings of an uncomfortable mousetrap for Clive Woodward, the England coach, as his juggernaut rumbles towards the grand slam, and beyond that, the World Cup in the autumn.

Wilkinson is hogging the plaudits while playing out of position. He is apparently a fly half in centre's clothing. The clamour for him to assume his inheritance grows louder by the match. Woe betide Woodward if any perceived weakness at fly half is held responsible for a sub-par showing in the World Cup. In that event, his reluctance to promote Wilkinson may see the trap shut firmly across his neck.

Yet Woodward's thinking is clear. "Goalkicking aside, Jonny is definitely one of our very best players," he said in assessment of Wilkinson. "He is playing way above what I expected from a 19-year-old. When Phil de Glanville and Will Greenwood [England's injured centres] get fit, they will have a real job to dislodge him." When tributes to his composure and commitment are added to the mix, Wilkinson quickly assumes the profile of a latter-day Sir Galahad, riding the sweet chariot to fame and riches. Yet while his promise is immense, it is unsettling to see him fêted at this embryonic stage.

One potential demon was unwittingly loosened by Dave Alred, England's kicking coach, who asserted that Wilkinson's first two penalties were far from cleanly struck. The two efforts established a 6-0 platform inside five minutes. Had they drifted wide, Wilkinson's confidence may have suffered. The goalkicker's margins are thus too fine to invest certainty within them — even for a man who has missed just one kick in his three Five Nations Championship matches to date.

Given the adjustments Wilkinson will one day have to make to accommodate the switch to fly half, and given the absence of time before the World Cup, Woodward plainly proposes to deploy Wilkinson at inside centre. In that position Wilkinson can ride the learning curve with protection from the noose of overexposure.



Woodward: style

One facet of a disappointing match was that the Wilkinson-Guscott axis largely failed to trouble the French midfield. Quite how this will translate to the pair coping with their increasingly leviathan southern hemisphere counterparts must be a source of concern.

Woodward is quick to dismiss any prompt about the World Cup. His sights, and those of the team, are forcefully trained on the grand-slam encounter with Wales, yet England's reluctance to embrace a more expansive game appears increasingly ominous. In driving for small gains around mauls, England's rumbustious forwards derive the pleasure of an imprisoned thief chalking up another day of time served.

Invention has been ditched in the interests of a pack superiority that cannot be expected to overwhelm the southern hemisphere giants. Even Woodward acknowledged the point when he said: "We have to create a style where teams playing against us don't know what is going to happen. If they do, we will always be second best."

It was a curious observation from a man whose hand appears very firmly on the tiller, for England's predictability has sufficed against Ireland and France. It will surely not suffice in the World Cup, yet to introduce invention at the conclusion of the Five Nations would match the folly of switching Wilkinson to fly half at this late stage.

MONDAY MATTERS

Wanted: young exec to kick-start football

Matt Dickinson on the importance of finding the right men to fill the vacancies at the Football Association and the Premier League

For all the vast wages that will be put on offer — and you can start the guessing, conservatively, at £250,000 a year — there appears as much allure in the vacancies for chief executive of both the Football Association and Premier League as there is in becoming a bin-man. Either way, it is a lot of dirty work.

Literally, it appears, in the case of the Premier League, where the commercial director has allegedly been filling 30 rubbish bags with shredded documents. So that is what is meant by cleaning up the game. While the FA and Premier League search the boardrooms of Britain for their next leaders, the average football fan could scarcely care less. He knows the FA chief executive only as the man who pulls the cup balls from the bag and who stands on the steps of Lancaster Gate every time an England coach has just been hired or fired. He would not recognise the Premier League chief executive if he strode naked across Wembley.

But while such indifference is understandable, it should not mask the fact that the two appointments are of vital significance. Football was never more in need of good leaders than now, and decisions will be made during the next few years that will have a profound effect on the game. Revered institutions, such as the FA Cup, are under threat, diminished in its prestige by the year as the football calendar becomes increasingly cluttered.

Turning on a television to watch free football can not, for much longer, be regarded as a birthright with BSkyB continuing their experiments with pay-per-view. The Worthington Cup will almost certainly become extinct if, as expected, the competition loses its qualification place for Europe, and there will be more high-profile casualties in the stampede for greater riches. The game needs strong, responsible leaders and the shared fate of Graham Kelly and Keith Wiseman, sacked as chief executive and chairman of the FA, and Peter Leaver and Sir John Quinton, removed from office at the Premier League, would suggest that we have not found them yet. The growing fear now is that they will never be uncovered unless the two organisations themselves undergo radical reform.

Would, for example, an ambitious young administrator want to rush to Lancaster Gate, where his plans are at the mercy of a council of 91 septuagenarians and committee reports arrive covered in cobwebs? High-placed officials at the FA talk grand plans for modernisation, but there are no signs yet.

Or would a keen young executive want to head to the League where the nest is full of 20 in-fighting FA Carling Premiership chairmen? Some want pay-per-view, others think it will bring disaster. Some want the Premiership reduced to 18 clubs, most prefer it to stay as it is. They are pulling in different directions, and the only thing many have in common is a love of money.

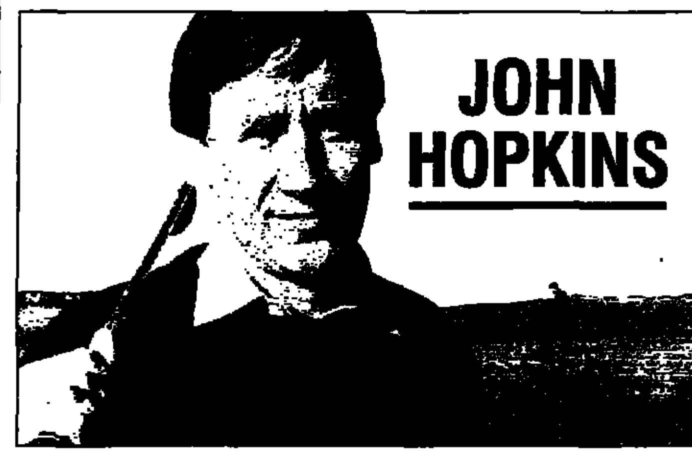
Of course, there will be people who will think they can handle a chief executive's job, and there are able candidates for both. While some will always refuse to forgive him for his ghostwriting of Glenn Hoddle's vacuous *World Cup Diary*, David Davies, in his role as executive director at Lancaster Gate, has already made positive changes to improve the labyrinthine workings there. Richard Scudamore has impressed many as chief executive of the Football League. The likes of Andrew Croker, head of football at IMG, Martin Prothero, marketing director of Umbro, and Nic Coward, company secretary at the FA, are bright, young-ish things with the good of the game at heart.

None, though, are perfect, which is what both jobs seem to require. Not only must the chief executives have brilliant legal, commercial and public relation minds, but be visionaries as well. The FA chief executive must be able to safeguard the grass roots of football while trying to keep pace with the commercial forces that are driving the professional game. He must be capable of providing one voice for a national game that is made up of a million parts.

"The two appointments are critical, the FA in particular," one candidate said. "If English football does not seize the opportunities now, it will regret it for ever. We are ahead of the rest of the world in so many things, such as marketing, television, grounds and finance. But they will catch up and, unless the administration is sorted out, we will go backwards." The appointment of the next England coach will be given far more coverage, but that does not mean it is more important

He receives the greetings of players as a king at court, which, I suppose, is just what he is

Evergreen Palmer retains all his zest



JOHN HOPKINS



Palmer, still capable of very smart form even though he is approaching 70 years of age, believes Woods would be a better player if he learnt to enjoy it more

More than 40 years ago a young golfer forced himself into the American consciousness with the shattering power of one of his own drives.

With a thrilling style of play, a wink, and a hitch of his trousers, Arnold Palmer took the first steps that led to his present status as one of the most revered men in the United States, one of the great sporting icons of the second half of the century.

Palmer was at it again in Florida last week. The man who has won seven significant professional championships was broader in the beam, slower of gait, but still winking, laughing, sighing and wearing his heart on his sleeve. Palmer charmed golf once more while acting as host of a tournament at his club and launching an enchanting book about himself.

Few sportsmen in the United States have earned the level of popularity of this man, who was once asked to run for a career in politics. "I wasn't going to be a politician," he said, laughing. "Too many skeletons in the closet."

He was once summoned by President Richard Nixon and Dr Henry Kissinger and asked how to solve the Vietnam problem. On Palmer's 37th birthday in 1966 came a knock on the door. "You wouldn't have room to put up an old man for the night, would you?" Dwight D Eisenhower, President of the United States between 1953 and 1961, asked as he stood on the doorstep of Palmer's home.

Look at Palmer now, a Tintin-like curl of snowy hair atop a face weathered as brown as a walnut. A hearing aid is just visible in his right ear. Those massive hands fidget restlessly, scratching at his huge forearms. He has just faced down prostate cancer as he once used to outstare curling three-foot putts.

You don't so much have an interview with Palmer as an audience while he sips at a beer and stuffs crisps into his mouth and receives the greetings of players as a King at court, which, I suppose, is just what he is. There is a magnetism about him that is electric. You just want him to like you, to acknowledge you, to give you a wink. Down the years, Palmer has had a great rivalry with Jack Nicklaus. The two men were strong and gifted, each recognisably shaped by the influences of their dominant fathers.

Nicklaus was the cool one, the product of a Germanic background, Palmer the let 'er rip young boy whose father had played golf the same way. Nicklaus was the Roundhead, Palmer the Cavalier.

It is an odd coincidence that the nature of their rivalry and their differences in personality are continued in their recent books. Nicklaus's is enormous and fact-filled, a stone-cold piece of testimony, Nicklausian to a tee in its thoroughness. Palmer's is folksy, a crafted piece of work that worms its way into your heart as quickly and convincingly as the author himself.

Now Palmer has made his way into the locker room at Bay Hill, after a round in the company of Severiano Ballesteros and Bob Friend. "Give me a beer," he has just roared, needing some solace to ease his unhappiness after a 78, still unwilling to accept that such a score was far from a disgrace for a man who will be 70 in November. It was in this calm locker room, that Palmer aired his views on some of today's issues in golf.

On Tiger Woods: "I think that frown all the time and slamming the club down doesn't do anything for his game. He's got the world in his hands. All he has to do is to enjoy it and laugh."

On manners: "Pap [Deacon, Palmer's father] had a thing about living and having good manners. It was just the proper thing in my family and I suppose it was the tradition my father thought very strongly about, whether it means taking your hat off inside or particularly at a dinner table with ladies.

It was a fetish with him. It was more than a fetish. It was a positive to take your hat off and it was a positive that you learnt how to use a knife and fork and how to talk to people. Manners and etiquette and proper conduct are a part of what makes a nation such as ours strong and solid. If you lose that, or if it goes away, then you weaken the very nucleus of the country and the people."



Palmer and Ballesteros study the tee-shot of an opponent during the Bay Hill Invitational in Florida last week

On money in team events: "To make winning money a feature of the Ryder or Presidents Cup would be very bad. I think you see the spirit in which the guys play the game without money and I think that's important. If you have to instil that spirit by putting up money, then I think it's bad."

On his father: "Pap was a muscular, mentally tough guy and I loved that. He never backed off anything from the time I was a little fellow. Boy was he strong. He could do ten pull-ups with his left arm and then ten with his right. He was never more than 180lb and I saw him wrestle two 200lb men and pin them to the ground, one in each arm.

He reminded me of Spencer Tracy. He was a very quiet person. He was as cavalier as I was. He suffered from infantile paralysis and had a club left foot. As a result he played golf from an open position, his left side was always pointed to the left of the target, and when he was young the shots that he played were always low driving shots at the target. Naturally, I picked that up."

On Severiano Ballesteros: "My father taught me that when you are not sure what to say, don't say anything. He still has a magic touch but his long game is . . . he hit it out of bounds on the 4th hole. He hit it across two fairways into a lake. Who knows whether you get it back, but at 42 years old you've got lots of time to keep trying. I am not sure what he has to do. I am not sure what he has done up to this point to get it back. He should have one person teaching him and stick with him, somebody who knows, or not anyone and do it himself."

Sports letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number.

SPORTS LETTERS

E-mail, including a postal address and daytime telephone number, should be sent to: sport.letters@the-times.co.uk

Birmingham City defence

From Mr Gary Loveridge

Sir, Michael Henderson (report, March 15) seems to argue that because Birmingham City have a less-than-illustrious history, at least in terms of winning trophies, that their supporters are not entitled to feel and display, pride in their team.

This club retains a quite astonishing level of supporter loyalty for one which has spent so long in the doldrums. Six years ago, the club was on the brink of extinction, and was in the third division for the first time in its 120-year history. It had won nothing of note in all of these 120 years, as Mr Henderson was so happy to point out.

Since then, a steady revival has taken place. Last weekend, 29,000 people turned up to watch the side that Trevor Francis has built, without a "bobby-dazzler" in sight, destroy our allegedly "famous" local neighbours — the highest league gate for 11 years. The ground redevelopment is 75 per cent completed, and already provides a marvellous, atmospheric environment from which to watch football. When complete, it will be a superb 40,000-seat stadium, fit for premier league football.

This "sleeping giant" is finally stirring, Mr Henderson. We may not have won a major trophy to date, but every dog has its day.

Yours sincerely,
GARY LOVERIDGE,
Hurtswood,
Ashbourne,
Derbyshire DE6 2AQ
gl.hurtswood@virgin.net

Rideout's loss

From Mr Ian Edmiston

Sir, I feel compelled to reply to the question "How many recall Paul Rideout's hat-trick in a memorable under-15 England v Scotland schoolboys game with England winning 5-0?" Obviously Rob Hughes doesn't.

Didn't Scotland win this game 5-4? I am sure a vast number of Scottish supporters do remember this game. Among those playing for Scotland were Paul McStay (Celtic), Ally Dick (Tottenham, Ajax, St Mirren) and Ronnie Coyle (formerly of my own Raith Rovers, Celtic, Rochdale and Albion Rovers to name but four).

Unless Paul Rideout played in another under-15 schoolboy international at Wembley against Scotland, which is very unlikely, I feel a correction is required.

Yours sincerely
IAN EDMISTON
13 Monto Place
Kirkcaldy
Fife KY2 5HD.

Will the Lord's pavilion be overrun by women?

From Mr Matthew J Howard

Sir, In response to Michael Henderson's article (Long Room witnesses end of long march, March 17), I feel it necessary to counter the argument put forward that "Lord's will not suddenly be swamped by women bursting into the Long Room".

As the rules stand, the only days that the pavilion will be almost exclusively populated by men will be Test match days, the one-day finals and the forthcoming World Cup, these being days when only full members of MCC are allowed in the pavilion. On all other days during the season, however, not only will female guests of the 18,000 members of MCC be allowed to be introduced to the pavilion, but those also having access to the pavilion as of right will include female members of Middlesex, the female guests of male Middlesex men and the female members of those teams visiting Lord's.

In much the same way as Sebastian Flyte has cause to observe, in *Brideshead Revisited*, of Hertford College in the 1920s that the college was "positively pullulating with women" during Eights Week, only time will tell if the same effect is observed within the august portals of the pavilion at Lord's, and whether or not this will be a good thing. Old Father Time, for one, I am sure, will notice the difference.

Yours faithfully,
MATTHEW J HOWARD,
230 Gladback Way,
Enfield, Middlesex EN2 7HS.

White cards

From Mr Harry Pounder

Sir, Until recently believed I had a good working knowledge of the laws of rugby but I am confused over a definition of when an infringement constitutes a white card from the referee.

The reason for my consternation was watching the enthralling and highly competitive Northampton v Leicester match on March 14. Two very similar incidents happened within minutes of each other. In each case a defender, under pressure, deliberately positioned himself to prevent release of a ball that would be very dangerous for his side. In each case an attacking player took exception to this action, and took the law into his own hands. In each case the referee showed a white card. Unfortunately for my reasoning process, in the first case to the defender and in the second to the attacker. In the first incident the defender was probably more cynical, but the attacker was also more vigorous, so the balance remained the same.

There has to be a logical reason for the referee's action, but as yet it eludes me.

Yours sincerely,
HARRY POUNDER,
8 The Oaklands,
Droitwich,
Worcs WR9 8AD.

West Indies woes

From Mr Charles Halliday

Sir, Pat Gibson writes (March 13) about the "malicious gossip which is rife amid the inter-island rivalry" when suggesting that Lara may be succeeded as captain of the West Indies by Chanderpaul.

There is a certain poignancy in this report, since it was on this day in 1967 that Sir Frank Worrall died in Jamaica. I have read just reread his obituary (written in *Wisden* by Sir Learie Constantine). Underlining Worrall's genius as a man-manager, Constantine says he "ended the cliques and rivalries between players of various islands to weld together a team which in the space of five years became the champions of the world". I wonder if anyone can do it again?

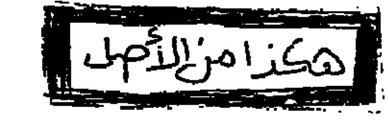
Yours faithfully,
CHARLES HALLIDAY,
12 Townsend Park,
Luston,
Leominster,
Hertfordshire HR6 0DZ.

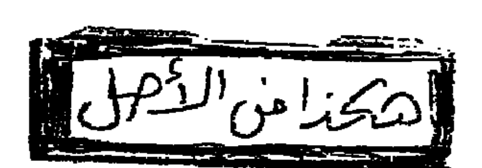
Wet Widnes

From Mr Robert P. Conroy

Sir, Lynne Truss's assertion that she "wouldn't like to be in Widnes on a wet Wednesday" (March 12) is erroneous. She wouldn't like to be there any day of the week, wet or basking in glorious sunshine.

Yours faithfully,
MR R CONROY,
17 Capesthorne Close,
Foxley Heath, Widnes,
Cheshire WA8 7BY.





MATTERS

LYNNE TRUSS

So we were warned before the start of the Worthington Cup final that at Wembley Stadium they have something they call the domino effect. "Stay seated throughout the match, please," the announcer said. "If you stand up, everyone has to stand up behind you. It's a feature of this stadium, known as the domino effect."

Well apart from it being a feature of every other stadium in the world, it was worth pondering that warning as this hard-fought, teeth-grinding match unravelled over what felt like the next 17 hours.

Not because you ever wanted to stand up to get a better look, because you didn't, but because down on the pitch, the majority of the action was barging and shouldering ("They're going down like, um, you know, ninepins," we said) and in the stands, funnily enough, if you looked around, there were loads of people playing dominoes.

Really. It's a good game, dominoes, if played with the right level of concentration. And for the lengthy period between kick-off and the skin-of-the-teeth last-minute goal, the joy of drawing the double five must have been considerable. When the announcer warned us at half-time that anyone running on the pitch was liable to be arrested, I was not alone in waving a hand at the 22 licensed players and muttering: "Well, this lot ought to be, surely."

I fall for it every time, the thrill of the Wembley final. I ought to know better. But you couldn't fault the atmosphere. Leicester fans brought blue and white balloons in their thousands; Tottenham fans brought rather less festive flags (they remembered balloons when it was too late, perhaps), but waved them enthusiastically.

The roar was enormous as the teams emerged from the tunnel and the flares filled the air with smoke and sparks. So had the event been brought to an abrupt close just around kick-off, say 3.05pm, we could all report we had a marvellous time. There was the initial excitement of seeing the candy-stripe outfit of the Tottenham goalkeeper, Ian Walker, which was a brave choice on his part, I thought, when the poor chap is trying so hard to throw off his image as a human barber's pole.

And there was the never-diminishing thrill of seeing the knees of David Ginola in the flesh. If only the crowd hadn't expected a display of superior (vertical) footballing skills, to test the abilities of two noble goalkeepers. That was where the trouble was. The expectation of the vertical. So we can blame ourselves, as usual.

When matches are as disappointing as this, you can do one of two things. Either you try to penetrate the mystery of 22 energetic and committed chaps unable to make an attractive flow of play, despite the occasion; or your can decide to locate an obscure bright side to the festering murk.

I opted for the latter, and decided that actually, after all the hoo-ha over Holyfield-Lewis, here was at least a knockdown rate that ought to satisfy half-blind boxing judges the world over. Looked at from this perspective, this Worthington Cup final was actually a superb match.

Calculating it roughly, there were 312 separate knockdown incidents, with often one knockdown leading to another knockdown, and finally to fisticuffs. The shove rate was phenomenal, matched only by the push rate and the crashing-down-on-top-of rate.

Moreover, what admirable symmetry. For Sol Campbell would take down Emile Heskey, who in turn would trip Ramon Vega, who would jump up and push somebody else, and so on until it came back round to Campbell, who said "How did that happen?" At which point it would start all over again.

Naturally enough, this tendency had a knock-on effect of its own, when in the 63rd minute, Justin Edinburgh was sent off for striking Robbie Savage. I was so glad I had adopted the boxing perspective from fairly early on. It was a sort-of right hook, to which Savage reacted like a woman struck in a pub at chucking-out time.

Of course, Savage had just barged into Edinburgh at full tilt, and Edinburgh had perhaps eaten enough grass for one afternoon, because the poor sap snapped. And after the dismissal of Edinburgh and the yellow card for Savage, the knock-on effect was that Savage was clattered whenever he came near the ball, once with the full weight of Les Ferdinand dropping on him from a flying leap, which must be like having a safe fall on top of you as you walk past the entrance to the Post Office Tower.

Why none of this was really the least bit entertaining I can't explain. But around me, people were almost in tears as the game failed to deliver a drama more sophisticated than a brawl. "Biff!" and "Pow!" have their place in sport, of course, but I was looking forward to "Ooh" and "Ah" and the fairy feet of Ginola dancing goalwards, or even the fairy feet of Heskey, if absolutely necessary.

But football is often about man-marking and man-felling, and seemingly both teams came out with identical game-plans, which amounted to a combination of "Get 'im boys" and "Aw, ref, he started it!". The last-minute goal was wonderful for Tottenham, but it was also a heaven-sent relief for the rest of us. An additional half-hour and we'd have had to set fire to our hair just to restore sensation.

When it came — the goal — I had none of my usual problems seeing it happen too fast. Rather the goal unfolded in marvellous slow motion, with Ferdinand flipping the ball out right to Iversen, who streaked goalwards, crossed well into the goalmouth, finding Nielsen, who headed it down and scored. "I knew that would happen," I said, happily. As a sort-of reward for waiting 38 hours, it was more than adequate. And the joy of "Glory, Glory, Tottenham Hotspur" was so unjudgmental, you had to be impressed. Whatever the performance, it was a victory.

Before the match, the announcer invited us to applaud four Leicester fans who had, in aid of charity, walked from Filbert Street to Wembley, a total of 105 miles. Unsurprisingly, those four plucky walkers kept coming to mind during this match, because walking across the street to see it would be considered by most rational people to be a stretch too far.

I just hope they didn't have to walk all the way back as well. The knock-on effect on those four noble souls might have been more than human stamina could bear.



Close contact: Matt Elliott, of Leicester City (left), fends off the attentions of Les Ferdinand, the Tottenham striker, during a physical afternoon at Wembley yesterday. Photograph: Clive Mason/Allsport

Caught out by envious glances

It is a little-known fact that towards the end of his life the gritty Scottish Nobel Prize-winning writer, Al McNomoney, was asked to present a BBC documentary called *Novelist Millionaires*.

The idea of this film was simple. The respected author of such classic realist texts as *The Siege of Liverpool* (1986) would visit today's Young Turks in their multi-bedroomed homes, analyse the astonishing change in the world of publishing that had occurred in his lifetime and, just for the sake of comparison, occasionally mention that for his own books he had frequently received advances somewhere in the region of 17 quid. But something went wrong, which was why the documentary was never shown. For, from the moment he came into contact with the Turks, McNomoney showed signs of emotional disarray.

"Is that a short story you're writing, lad?" he would begin, as he leaned over the shoulder of the latest 18-year-old publishing phenomenon to read the words on his monitor. "That's good use of imagery there, son. Very good. I used to be like you.

"Remind me how much they're paying you for this? Oh aye? Well, don't get me wrong. I'm sure you're worth it. It's just that . . ." At which point he would throw back his head and howl in anguish: "Why him? Why this spotty youth and not me?"

Everyone was embarrassed. The BBC had intended to make either a rather sensible, discursive documentary about the rocketing of market rates, or instead a crowd-pleasing exposé of how the crazy young novelists were spending their six-figure royalty advances on drugs and new teeth, and sluttish wives in leopardskin.

McNomoney, however, simply was not interested in such things. He was a slave to envy. "In my day," he berated one of the Turks, "I'd get 90 quid for a review in *The Listener*, and if I wrote for *Tribune*, it was *unpaid*."

The Turk shrugged, pushed his long blond fringe aside, and offered to demonstrate for the camera how he could write a well-paid column for a national newspaper by letting the cat stroll seven times across the keyboard.



It was the beginning of the end for McNomoney, although he could not see it. "Punters'll love it," he bluffed, when he saw the completed film. "All this envy stuff is only a joke, for heaven's sake. I got unbelievable access to those lads and do you not see how I put them at their ease asking them if they could spare a few bob?

"When I kept saying 'I can do that, gissa job', anyone could see it was ironic. I was sending up small-minded macho-competitive behaviour. I mean, good God, am I the only one around here with a sense of humour?"

So *Novelist Millionaires* was never screened, and the Turks were left in peace once more. Unbelievable access turned out to be pretty painless as far as they were concerned, since they had been required to reveal nothing whatever about themselves; in fact, their principal role in the film was to giggle nervously at McNomoney as he tortured himself on camera.

"Who *was* that?" they asked each other afterwards. And then they all shrugged and wiped the hair out of their eyes and said: "Money mad, if you ask me."

Wall-to-wall Eubanks

Astonishing story in the Brighton paper this week. Remember the miraculous cinnamon bun discovered in America that looked exactly like Mother Teresa?

Well, experts have been baffled again, this time by a damp patch in the flat of a woman called Miranda in Hove. "I've got Chris Eubank coming through my wall" was the headline in the *Argus*, sub-headed "Damp patch at flat reveals the face of ex-boxing champ." The funny thing was, I was getting ready to apologise to Eubank for implying he was a bit pushy. "Honestly, he gets everywhere," I kept saying in New York during the build-up to Holyfield-Lewis. But how right can you be?

It turns out that Eubank is indeed so omnipresent that he's capable of materialising in wet plaster. The damp patch does not yet sport a monocle, but obviously it's just a matter of time.

Poor Miranda. She is not a sports fan, despite gamely posing for a photo with fists raised. I have a feeling that, given the choice, she'd have preferred the cinnamon bun.

MORE mysterious referee hand-signals in the England v France Five Nations match on Saturday. Doubtless their meaning is as clear as day to the participants, but to the uninitiated the international gestures continue to perplex. On Saturday I saw "Put that cat out" (a robust pointing gesture), "This is how swans kiss" (curved hands held aloft, touching gently at the fingernails) and (my favourite, because it needs no description) "I am operating this bilge pump as fast as I can but we may *still* all drown!"

That aside it was an interesting walkover-type match, with most of the tension arising over whether Jonny Wilkinson would be asked, as a final flourish, to kick a goal from the opposite touchline with his eyes closed. "Back a bit," they kept telling him. "Back a bit more, more, that's it." Why did this young star wrap a protective strip around one ear but not the other, incidentally? I spent the whole match worrying about the exposed lughole and urging him to tuck it in.

Savage breasts the charms of Ginola

It is even more immutable than the immutable law of the ex — the principle by which the rmer player invariably ores against his old club.

Call it the ineluctable law of e preview — and it is a law at counts double for cup nals. Whenever it seems that match is destined to be a owcase for the skills and the ersonality of an individual, e real story of the day is bout somebody else.

The League Cup final — u'll have to excuse me, I n't remember who is sponring it this year — was supsed to be a master-class for avid Ginola.

Ginola, who has the most luptuous skills in English otball, was certain to be suitd by the extra square yards of e Wembley pitch — and ever mind the analysis, it st seemed right. This was to e Ginola's moment. It was ritten in the stars.

Every preview, written or levised, zoomed in on Ginola, with the occasional acknowledgement of the fact that there were a few other players for Tottenham, plus another entire side — who was it, Leicester? That's all right then, back to Ginola.

So we sat back and waited for Ginola to bewilder everybody along the left touch-line and send the crosses raining in from the left.

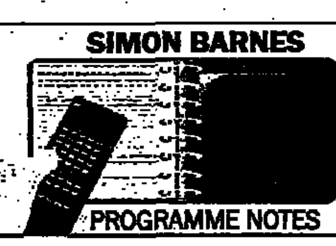
Except those of us who have seen a cup final or two before are familiar with the ineluctable law of the preview. You need only look as far back as, well, the last televised cup final, when the World Cup final was supposed to be all about Ronaldo.

Seasoned watchers of cup finals know the signs: we have measured out lives in John Barnes cup final previews.

So it was not to be Ginola's day. The scene-stealer was a chap called Robbie Savage, who chose to play in a yellow fright-wig to make himself instantly recognisable, and who clearly lost his marbles early



SIMON BARNES



PROGRAMME NOTES

in the second half. Someone was going to have to hit him.

There was never a shadow of doubt about it. He had lost it to such a considerable extent, and his hair was so yellow, he simply had to be whacked. It was only a question of who did it and how soon.

The decisive incident was a poor man's Gazza; you'll remember how Gazza lost such few marbles as he still possessed at an FA Cup Final some years ago — 1991 — and injured himself in a flying bedstead tackle.

The not altogether inaptly named Savage did a marginally less extravagant version of the same ploy, and Edinburgh cuffed him round the head. An instant action-replay showed us that with great clarity. The referee sent Edinburgh off, having little option, yet merely booked Savage.

George Graham, the Tottenham manager, had the ill grace to criticise the referee: he should have thanked him with tears in his eyes. For although the empowering of the side that has the man sent off is not an immutable law, it is something that happens often enough.

And that is the way things turned out. A terrific cutaway showed us Graham, signalling that he wanted to rearrange the side with three men at the back, and we were off. Any time Tottenham managed to forget their desire to stoke Savage up until he reached critical mass and so got sent off himself, they looked assured and certain.

And the goal came with sweet inevitability, from the right, and didn't involve Ginola at all: an astute knockdown from Ferdinand, a galloping run and shot from Iversen, a save and then the headed goal from Neilsen.

George Graham, who loves all things Nordic, seemed very pleased. Savage, meanwhile, looked like the well-known Nordic painting by Edvard Munch — the one called *The Late Winner*. It was a wonderful scene-stealing performance from Savage. He managed to turn a dull game into an absolute corker.

And it was pretty dire stuff from the spectacle point of view for the first hour or so. That is the odd thing about sport as televised spectacle: when a game refuses to catch light, there is nothing they can do but fume. Sport is unpredictable: which is, of course, good news and bad news from the point of pure entertainment.

The struggle of Ullathorne trying to man-mark Ginola was pretty intriguing: but it was not the dramatic edge-of-the-seat stuff we got once Savage had intervened.

As television prayed for Ginola to fulfil the predictions, so their prayers were answered instead by the noble Savage.

It was not to be Ginola's day, but after it was all over, he seemed almost as marbleless as Savage, with some of the most extravagant victory capers we have seen since Nobby Stiles's jig.

He managed to find the composure to explain that he was very 'appy. Ginola has always had charms to soothe a savage breast.

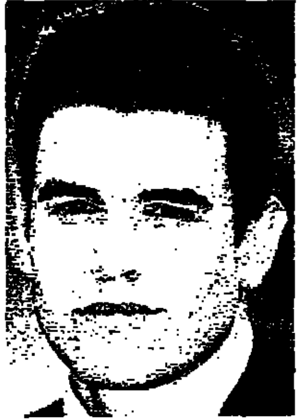
TELEVISION HIGHLIGHTS

IN A week dominated by the build-up to Kevin Keegan's first match in charge of England, his predecessor may well steal some of his thunder. In *Hoddle and The Healer* tomorrow (Channel 4, 9pm), the former national team coach speaks for the first time since his dismissal about his beliefs, his relationship with Eileen Drewery and the interview with Matt Dickinson, of *The Times*, that led to his downfall. Given that Brian Alexander, the interviewer, knows a little about the relationship between the England manager and the media (he was sports editor of *The Sun* at the time of the Turnip Taylor campaign), it promises to be a lively exchange. Tonight *Cutting Edge* presents *Playing for England* (Channel 4, 9pm), an account of the adventures of the Sheffield Wednesday "band" following England during France 98.

THIS SPORTING WEEK IN THE TIMES

TOMORROW: With the Flat racing season under starter's orders later this week Julien Muscat begins a column focussing on the classic issues.
WEDNESDAY: The Prince of Wales launches the Sporting Chance appeal to assist disability sport. Rob Hughes takes heart from the continuing victories for human spirit over financial difficulty.
THURSDAY: Greg Rusedski and Tim Henman have moved up in class at the Lipton tennis championships. Alix Ramsay monitors their progress.
FRIDAY: Brian Lara secured his position as West Indies cricket captain in style in Jamaica. Now the Australians are on the back foot for the third Test. Pat Gibson reports.
SATURDAY: England, under Kevin Keegan, resume the quest to qualify for Euro 2000. Oliver Holt sets the scene for the vital match with Poland.

Voyage of discovery



Matthew Pryor, a landlubber, is finding his sea legs having joined the crew of *Serica* in the Clipper 98 round the world race

Cabin boy's log, sea date March 1999. These are the voyages of the clipper, *Serica*, racing her six sister yachts from Shanghai to Hong Kong. This, the 900-mile final part of the third leg of the Clipper 98 race will take the seven crews to the halfway point of their 34,000-mile race around the world.

The challenge, the longest in the world, follows the trade winds around the belly of the world. The yachts set off from Plymouth on October 17 last year; they will return in late August after more than ten months of competition, crossing the Atlantic three times, the Pacific, Indian Ocean and East and South China Seas.

Exotic stopovers have included the Galapagos Islands and Shanghai with Singapore and Cape Town to follow on the way back to Plymouth. This was the first round-the-world race to moor in Havana, where they received a surprisingly friendly welcome and met little of the expected Cuban bureaucracy.

First run in 1996 and sponsored by *The Times* in the year 2000, this race for paying amateurs is the brainchild of Sir Robin Knox-Johnston, the first man to sail around the world non-stop single-handed in 1968-69 and one of the holders of the fastest circumnavigation in 1994. Having initially attempted to persuade a race organiser to create a separate class for his yachts in 1995, he went it alone again and the rest is happening right now.

Forty per cent of the crews had never sailed before. They went through interviews to assess suitability and were given three weeks' basic training on the yachts, then professional skippers knocked them into shape during the race. "It is the chance for someone with no experience to do something truly momentous that few have done before," Sir Robin said. "It builds confidence and looks great on the CV."

This may not have the standard of the Whitbread nor the toughness of Sir Chay Blyth's BT Global Challenge race for amateurs, which takes the opposite route around the globe against the trade winds, but there is no shortage of competitiveness among the teams and, after more than five months at sea, no delusions that this is a champagne-sipping cruise.

The fleet of seven yachts — *Ariel, Chrysolite, Antiope, Mermerus, Thermopylae, Serica and Taeping* — (which will expand to 12 for the 2000 race) are named after the old tea clippers, which used to rush tea back from China to England.

The boats are connected by satellite and can send faxes and e-mail, as well as receiving weather information. Radio links between the yachts allow for information exchange and gamesmanship in equal measure.

Ariel is the clear leader, having won all but two of the stages, and looks unlikely to be caught. The other six are all close and will fight it out for second place.

Serica lies sixth but has improved markedly since a disastrous crossing of the Atlantic, which saw the crew miss shore leave in San Salvador and have to sail straight from Madeira to the Bahamas. A highest position of second in the Havana-to-Panama leg, among other good finishes, has lifted them off the bottom.

Their fortunes may improve further with Sir Robin on board until Hong Kong. Of me, the other new arrival, the crew are more sceptical. The jury is still out on my introduction in Shanghai.

The crews are almost exclusively British but are a mixture of backgrounds and ages, from 18 to 66. They are constantly changing, with about five "lifers" (those doing the whole circumnavigation) distributed on each boat and "leggers" joining at junctures for varying numbers of legs.

Serica's crew comprises ten men and one woman. Frank, a retired stockbroker from Dublin, is the eldest at 62, followed by Mike, a retired multimillionaire businessman. Iain, a property developer, and Kate, 21, a student of photography in Manchester, the only two with no previous experience, make up the "lifers".

They have been joined by Glen, 25, a Glaswegian, Rowland, 31, a big friendly bear of a Scottish farmer, Alastair, a 47-year-old retired chartered surveyor, nicknamed, for reasons I have yet to discover and have studiously avoided asking, "man with a knife". And more recently by myself, Sir Robin and a friend, John. Rupert, 27, is the professional skipper.

Some have made many sacrifices to come on this race. At £22,740 for circumnavigation and around £6,000 for a leg, added to the cost of port stops and lost earnings, this is not a decision made lightly.

This is a case of ordinary people doing something extraordinary, although the motivations may be different. "Some people come to say they've been around the world, others to do something different on a sabbatical," Rupert said. "They might be trying to get away from something, too," Alastair said. "Everybody has a story."

No one is in any doubt that they have taken a monumental step that will affect their lives forever. Rupert was "bitten by the bug" after his first ocean yachting voyage 12 years ago. He cannot imagine doing anything else and foresees changes ahead for the crews. "People become a lot more confident about trying new things after relying entirely on the natural elements, but may have trouble settling down after this."

Iain agrees. "It can be unsettling to a great extent for some people," he said. This is what some are after.

"It is the extremes that are attractive, the highs and lows," Alastair said.

It is not all about sailing skills. "The psychology of living in a cramped environment comes into it enormously," Rupert said.

For some, life has changed on the voyage. Rebecca, who had completed her two legs on *Serica*, announced that she and the skipper of *Chrysolite* were getting engaged, promptly rang back from Hawaii to resign from her job and found a space on *Thermopylae* to continue.

One of the biggest factors in bonding the crews has been the many close shaves. Alastair's right thumb, twice its normal size and Frank's wrist, only just out of plaster after six weeks, are testimony to onboard emergencies.

But there is one particular accident on *Taeping* that has really shaken all the crews. Tim, an oilrig worker, suffered a near amputation of the foot when the spinnaker ... slipped away from the boom ... the way from Hawaii to Yokohama last month. An emergency detour to an Ameri[ca]... army base, Johnston's ... took four days. The foot was saved but may remain permanently "frozen".

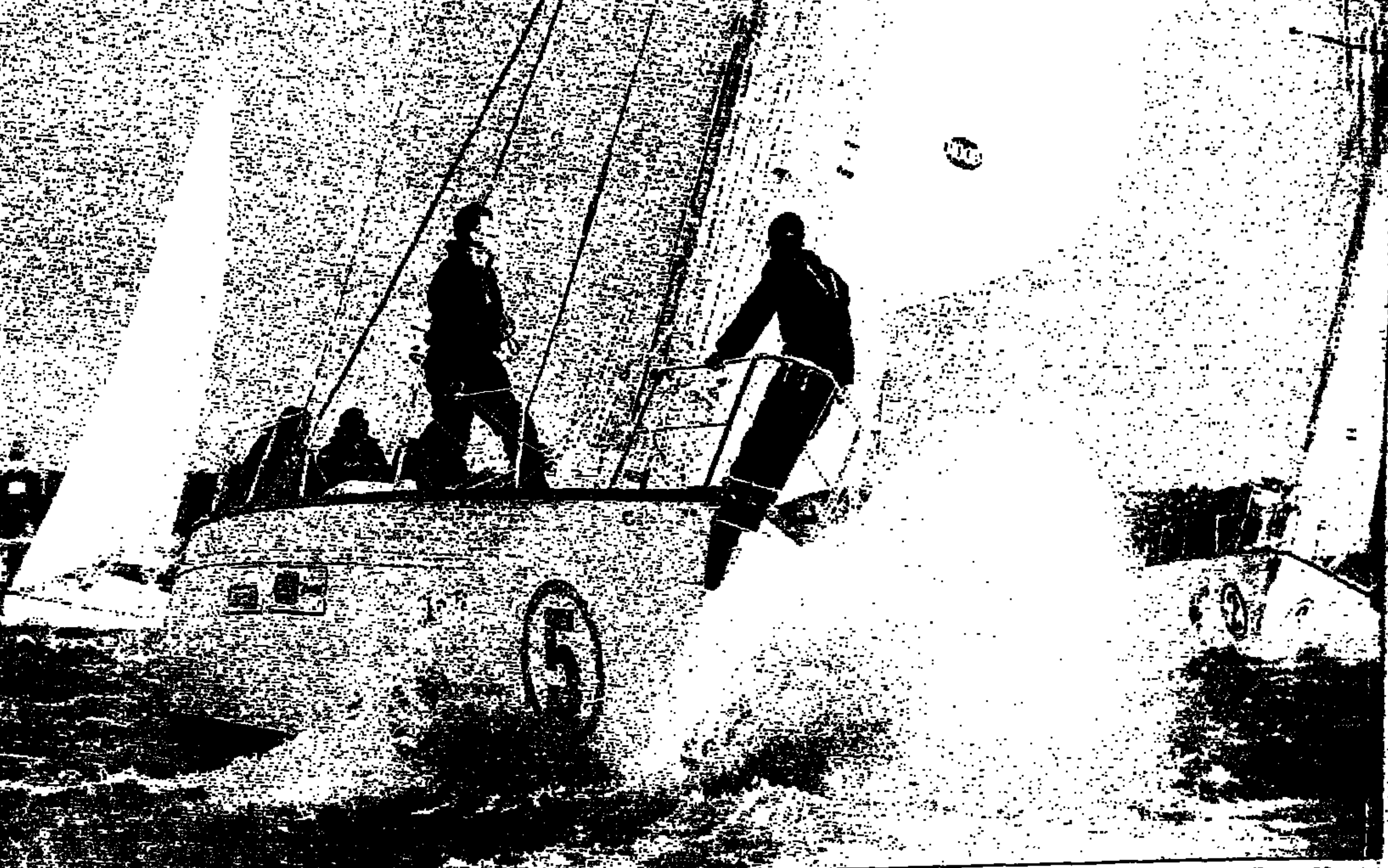
A similar accident happened on *Serica*, thankfully without injury, which led Frank to compare taking the helm with a spinnaker ... to "driving a wheelbarrow on a five-storey building in ... a wind tunnel".

"You get the confidence from the number of near-misses to your life," Iain said.

They have learnt the hard way, making mistakes as they race. "Some people are passengers who could not become sailors in a million years," Alastair said. "Others who have just started, like Iain, are already able and trusted. I would trust him with my ..."

He may well have to.

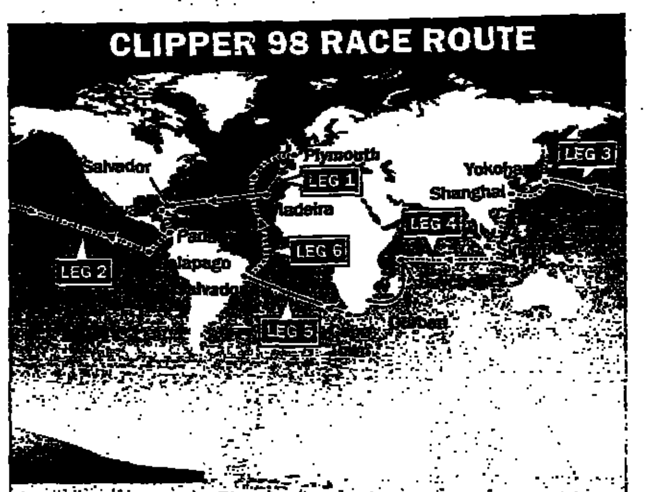
Results, page 39

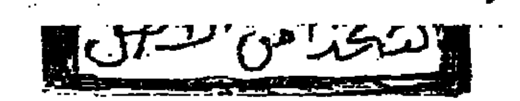


A life on the ocean wave: the crew of *Serica*, now sailing from Shanghai to Hong Kong, will find their lives changed forever by the Clipper 98 race



For more information on The Times Clipper 2000, phone 01234 711550 or visit the website at: www.clipper-ventures.com







Gregory's future in doubt after defeat

Wakefield Trinity Wildcats..22
Salford Reds....................10

BY DAVID LAWRENSON

THE future of Andy Gregory, the Salford coach, is hanging in the balance after another poor performance by his side. They were knocked out of the Challenge Cup last week by Castleford and yesterday lost their second JJB Super League match.

Gregory said he was disappointed by his team's showing. "As a player I always gave 100 per cent and I have as a coach. I don't think I've ever been as low as I am at the moment. I'm the head coach and I'll accept responsibility, but there are players, in my eyes, who are not performing to Super League standard."

Wakefield got off to a fine start when David March crashed over for a try under the posts. Graham Law converted and Trinity were playing with confidence until Kevin Crouthers, the centre, made a poor attempt at tackling his opposite number, Paul Carige, who scored in the corner in the twelfth minute.

Wakefield regained the lead midway through the half when Lynton Stott raced onto Adrian Brunker's kick to the corner to make it 10-4. Salford were struggling, but Martin Crompton hauled them back into the game when Garen Casey latched onto his neat grubber kick to score. Casey drew them level with the conversion, but just before half-time Salford's defence was caught napping when March darted over from dummy half and Graham Law's conversion gave Trinity a 16-10 lead.

After a scrappy opening to the second half, the second-row forward, Willie Poching, clinched it for Trinity when he looped round the full back, Andy Hodgson, to score. Graham Law's conversion made it 22-10.

SCORERS: Wakefield: Tries: March 2, Stott, Poching. Goals: G Law 3. Salford: Tries: Carige, Casey. Goal: Casey

WAKEFIELD TRINITY WILDCATS: A Hodgson, L Stott, A Brunker, K Crouthers, N Law, S Kenward, G Tomlinson, F Stephenson, D March, A Fisher, G Price, W Poching, G Law. Substitutes: A Hughes, W McDonald, F Watene, P Jackson

SALFORD REDS: G Broadbent, S Martin, P Carige, B Thompson, M Johnson, S Blakeley, M Crompton, N Baynes, M Allen, P Southern, H Smith, D Hulme, G Casey. Substitutes: C Briggs, G Hewitt, J Faimalo, P Highton

Referee: J Connolly (Wigan).

RUGBY LEAGUE

Disgraced Sharks regain lost respect

Hull Sharks 3
Bradford Bulls.....................8

BY MARTIN RICHARDS

HULL produced a performance of great character to restrict Bradford to a single try and win back the respect of their fans after the debacle of their opening day defeat at Wigan. The home side overcame the loss of Karl Harrison, the captain, and Matt Schultz in the opening half-hour to frustrate Bradford, who had been tipped to heap more misery on the Sharks after their 58-6 loss at Central Park a fortnight ago.

The only try of the game came from a sublime pass from Steve McNamara, the former Hull forward, who broke from dummy half to put Nathan McAvoy, the winger, in at the corner in the 27th

Results and tables..........39

minute. Two penalties from McNamara early in the second half gave the Bulls more breathing space but they needed to call on all their defensive reserves to deny the Sharks after the interval.

Peter Walsh, the Hull coach, who had been vilified by the home fans after the defeat at Wigan, was understandably proud of his side's performance. "If we can produce that sort of commitment every week, a win is just around the corner," Walsh said. "Bradford had unbelievable possession and should have put us away but the lads stood up to them, which is something they didn't do at Wigan."

Hull now have a frustrating two-week period without a competitive match before they face three matches in eight days.

Matthew Elliott, the Bradford coach, was satisfied with the hard-earned victory and especially pleased with his hard-working defence, who prevented Hull from scoring a try.

The visitors looked distinctly uncomfortable in the first half with the wind and rain driving into their faces and Hull took advantage of their early indiscipline when Steve Prescott, the full back, put them ahead with a fourth-minute penalty.

Prescott extended Hull's lead with a sweetly-struck dropped goal six minutes later and the Bulls' errors were underlined when Paul Anderson, the prop, fumbled the ball in front of his own posts, although Hull were unable to take advantage of the mistake.

The Sharks continued to play with great passion but were undone by McNamara's moment of quality while a Hull player was lying injured. Bradford still struggled to establish any kind of dominance and they lost Mike Forshaw to the sin-bin five minutes before the break.

Hull's defence stood firm when Tevita Vaikona, another former Hull player, was forced into touch after McNamara had put him clear down the right wing with another excellent pass.

Harrison, the Hull captain, said after the match: "A lot of our spectators turned on us after the Wigan defeat but I hope we won them back today. With myself and Matt Schultz going off in the first half-hour, it put an enormous burden on our pack but they played superbly."

SCORERS: Hull Sharks: Goal: Prescott. Dropped goal: Prescott. Bradford Bulls: McAvoy. Goals: McNamara (2).

HULL SHARKS: S Prescott; J Smith, D Baildon, G Hales, F Seru; A Purcell, G Lester; A Ireland, N Hall, K Harrison, N Schultz, R Roberts, L Campbell. Substitutes: C Murdock, J Leatham, S Craven, M Smith.

BRADFORD BULLS: S Spruce; N McAvoy, M Withers, N Zisti, T Vaikona; H Paul, P Deacon; P Anderson, J Lowes, B McDermott, M Forshaw, B Dwyer, S McNamara. Substitutes: D Peacock, N Harmon, J Fielden, W Jowitt.

Referee: S Nicholson (Whitehaven).



Two Hull Sharks players struggle to contain the powerful running of Nathan McAvoy, the Bradford Bulls winger

Fleming completes spirited fightback

Sheffield Eagles 20
London Broncos...............26

BY DAVID LAWRENSON

DAN STAINS, the London Broncos coach, will have to scour Australia for another forward after his prop, Grant Young, was carried off with a suspected broken leg that will put him out for the rest of the season.

Earlier in the week, London Broncos lost another forward, Darren Bradstreet, with a shoulder injury, so Stains is going to have to mix and match up front for the Silk Cut Challenge Cup semi-final against Castleford on Saturday. At least his side will go into the game on a high, after a remarkable comeback that enabled his team to extend their unbeaten run.

A poor first half ended with Sheffield leading 8-6 after a try by Martin Pearson, the stand-off, and a penalty and conversion from Mark Aston.

London Broncos replied with a touchdown from Greg Fleming, converted by Brett Warton, but after the interval the home side capitalised on the Broncos' errors. Pearson added a second try and Jeff Hardy put Darren Shaw over for another, both of which were converted by Aston. The Broncos' reply was a solitary penalty from Warton.

With Sheffield leading 20-8 going into the final quarter, it looked all over for the visitors but their half backs, Shaun Edwards and Karl Hammond, gradually brought their side back into the game.

Martin Offiah supported a break by Robbie Beazley to race in for a try with 15 minutes remaining, and Dominic Peters went over with five minutes to go. Greg Fleming claimed the winner in the final minute, with Warton converting all three.

Stains said: "They showed mental toughness for sure. To come back when you are down by 12 points with 15 minutes to go shows a lot of heart and a lot of spirit."

SCORERS: Sheffield Eagles: Tries: Pearson 2, Shaw. Goals: Aston 4. London Broncos: Tries: Fleming 2, Offiah, Peters. Goals: Warton 5.

SHEFFIELD EAGLES: W Sovatabua, B Sodje, K Lovell, K Senior, M Crowther, M Pearson, M Aston, S Molloy, J Lawless, D Laughton, M Jackson, D Shaw, J Hardy. Substitutes: D Powell, D Watson, R Wright, P Anderson.

LONDON BRONCOS: T Tollett, B Warton, G Fleming, J Timu, M Offiah, K Hammond, S Edwards, G Young, R Beazley, S Retchless, D Peters, R Simpson, P Gill. Substitutes: C Ryan, S Millard, M Toshack, D Callaway.

Referee: S Presley (Castleford).

Holroyd's display inspires Halifax

Huddersfield Giants 14
Halifax Blue Sox................17

BY A CORRESPONDENT

GRAHAM HOLROYD repaid a huge chunk of the transfer fee Halifax Blue Sox paid to Leeds Rhinos before Christmas with an influential display against Huddersfield Giants at the McAlpine Stadium yesterday.

The stand-off scored one try, kicked four goals and landed a neatly-taken field goal to give the Blue Sox a slender victory over their neighbours.

Huddersfield lacked penetration and, despite outscoring their opponents by three tries to two, never deserved the win that almost went their way. The home side were convinced they had scored the match-winning try two minutes from time only for the referee to rule out David Boughton's touchdown for a forward pass from Bobbie Goulding.

The incident crowned a disappointing day for the Huddersfield captain who kicked only one goal from three attempts.

Goulding did get it right after nine minutes, however, when his diagonal kick was plucked out of the air by John Bentley, who went on to score. But from the moment Holroyd sidestepped and swerved his way through for a try after 12 minutes, Halifax always had the ascendancy.

Holroyd converted the goal from his try and was then involved in a fine score by Damien Gibson, the Australian utility back. Holroyd, who had also landed a penalty, kicked the goal to open up an eight-point gap.

The Giants stayed in contention with the first of winger Andy Cheetham's two tries, but from the restart Holroyd again edged Halifax clear with his second penalty and a field goal.

Cheetham's second try briefly raised Huddersfield's hopes but Halifax held their nerve to secure their first victory in Super League IV.

SCORERS: Huddersfield Giants: Tries: Cheetham 2, Bentley. Goal: Goulding. Halifax Blue Sox: Tries: Holroyd, Gibson. Goals: Holroyd 5

HUDDERSFIELD GIANTS: D Arnold, J Bentley, J Lenihan, P Loughlin, A Cheetham; C Weston, R Goulding; N Fozzard, D Russell, B Richards, D Boughton, M Sturm, A Tangata-Toa. Substitutes: J Berry, P Cook, I Pickavance, P Reilly

HALIFAX BLUE SOX: D Cardiss, D Gibson, J Bloem, M Moana, D Bouveng, G Holroyd, G Clinch, P Broadbent, P Rowley, R Marshall, D Clark, C Gillespie, C Chester. Substitutes: N Pinkney, C Randall, A Hobson, D Seal.

Referee: R Connolly (Wigan).

Orr injury doubles Castleford troubles

Warrington Wolves 19
Castleford Tigers..............14

BY PETER WILSON

CASTLEFORD, the Challenge Cup semi-finalists, suffered heavily at the hands of Warrington and may be without the services of Danny Orr, the stand-off, for their tie against London Broncos on Saturday.

Orr was helped off with damaged knee ligaments on the stroke of half-time and is considered extremely doubtful for Saturday. He was joined on the injured list by Dean Sampson, a prop, and Aaron Raper, the hooker.

Orr's early departure left Castleford short of midfield inspiration and a recognised goal kicker. His loss also prompted Stuart Raper, the Castleford coach, to call for more protection for his young half back.

Warrington showed they can still be an influence in the Super League with a spirited second-half rally, thanks to the efforts of Toa Kohe-Love, the New Zealand centre, who scored two tries.

Kohe-Love opened the scoring with a try after 26 minutes from Danny Farrar's pass but Castleford's swift reply brought a try for Richard Gay, the right winger, who rounded off an excellent four-man move. Orr added the conversion to put the Tigers ahead.

Warrington regained the advantage four minutes before half-time with a try by Ian Knott and a dropped goal from Lee Briers but, five minutes into the second half, were trailing again to a try by Michael Eagar.

Castleford missed Orr badly after the interval, allowing Kohe-Love and the lively Briers to take advantage with two tries in the space of five minutes. Brad Davis scored a consolation try for Castleford two minutes from the end.

SCORERS: Warrington: Tries: Kohe-Love 2, Knott, Briers. Goal: Briers. Dropped Goal: Briers. Castleford: Tries: Gay, Eagar, Davis. Goal: Orr

WARRINGTON WOLVES: J Roper, J Roach, T Kohe-Love, A Hunte, M Forster, S Wilson, I Briers, M Hilton, D Farrar, D Nutley, I Knott, S Gillies, M Wainwright. Substitutes: D Hanger, G Chambers, C Causey, S McCurrie

CASTLEFORD TIGERS: J Flowers, R Gay, M Eagar, A Vowles, D Rogers, D Orr, B Davis, D Sampson, A Raper, N Sykes, D Fritz, I Tonks, L Harland. Substitutes: J Pickering, G Tallec, A Lynch, J Wells

Referee: S Ganson (St Helens)

Jubilee is a cut above the rest

David Hands looks back at the success of the National School Sevens, which celebrates its diamond jubilee this week

IN A sport which now finds it hard to see beyond next week, a diamond jubilee is one to celebrate. Neither war nor the fundamental change that rugby union underwent when it accepted professionalism has stopped the annual celebration that the National Schools Sevens has become, and today the sixtieth edition begins in and around Rosslyn Park. The first tournament — known as the public schools seven-a-sides, which is instructive since the holders of the open competition over the past two years have been John Fisher, a state school from Purley — included 16 teams and was completed in a day.

This week, for the first time, the tournament spills over into five days and has 486 squads and around 6,500 players, who are scheduled to play a total of 882 matches. It is a mammoth production, which would not happen on the scale it does without substantial support over the past decade from Shell UK, and among the week's highlights is the diamond jubilee lunch at Roehampton tomorrow.

To mark the occasion, seven survivors from the schools who contested the first final, St George's, Harpenden and Clifton College, will be the guests of honour and old boys' teams representing those two schools will play a special match. To give some idea of the continuity of this tournament, 15 of the original schools — the two finalists, Bedford, Cheltenham, Colfe's, Cranbrook, Epsom, Eastbourne, Gresham's, King's (Canterbury), Mill Hill, Mount St Mary's, St Paul's, Sevenoaks and Stonyhurst — are still competing. The sixteenth side was a composite VII called the Incogniti, drawn from the South of England schools.

One of the St George's boys who beat Clifton 10-8 in the first final, Michael Heron, has been a Benedictine monk for 53 years. Now 77, Dom Benedict Heron regularly passes the Saracens training ground as he goes about his pastoral duties from the monastery of Christ the King but the names of his team colleagues still roll easily off his tongue, among them Dennis Watts, who went on to become the national coach for the Amateur Athletics Association.

SPORT IN SCHOOLS

"Dennis was our flier, we had had a good school year and we felt there was a chance of doing well," Father Benedict, who was a flanker, said. "We were lucky in that we played the first of the semi-finals and had longer to rest than Clifton. But it was quite an achievement because we were a small co-educational school then."

St George's won 10-8 and Father Benedict, who was a conscientious objector during the war, still chuckles at the team he played for in wartime, based on the Friends' Ambulance, who did such dangerous work during the Blitz. "It must have been the only rugby team to consist entirely of pacifists," he said.

Saracens have also provided coaching clinics for John Fisher as they bid for a third successive win, a feat which has been achieved only once in 60 years — by the Llanelli side of 1961-63. It is a tribute to the staff at the Surrey school that they regularly field 17 XVs at various age levels during the season, and that their first XV is unbeaten for a second successive season, despite a circuit that includes Dulwich, Whitgift and, for the first time this season, Eton.

"Though we are at different ends of the educational spectrum, the welcome we received at Eton was fantastic," Mike Davies, the John Fisher coach, said. "Schools rugby is very strong but we have to remember that's only five per cent of all the schools in the country." The John Fisher VII include Matthew Leek, the England 18-group fly half, and Tom Robinson, who has played for England A this season.

Nor are the girls forgotten. There were seven entrants in last year's inaugural girls' competition, which was won by John Cleveland College from Hinckley. Their alumni include Dean Richards, the Leicester team manager and former England No 8, and they will defend their title against a field which has grown to 24.

Rugby for girls was introduced to the college in 1994 but they have struggled for fixtures in the last two seasons. Yet they have already produced a role model in Vicky McCormack, who captained last year's VII and has won a place in the Emerging England squad. "Winning was a significant achievement," Paul Walsh, the first XV coach, said. "It generated publicity for the school and renewed enthusiasm for the game. It'll be much harder this year."



Father Michael Heron, who played for St George's when they won the inaugural National Sevens title



SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Mike Lawrence is an ex-world champion, and one of the best writers on the game. He has recently produced a series of computer products which provide over-the-shoulder tuition. "Private Bridge Lessons Volume II" - the latest - consists of more than 100 deals, primarily covering card play, but with interesting bidding points. Each time you deviate from Lawrence's recommended line, the program interrupts to explain the error of your ways. This is an example.

Dealer North — **Game all**

North: ♠ A J 10 ♡ A 8 6 4 ◇ A 9 7 5 ♣ 5 4

South: ♠ K Q 9 3 ♡ 2 ◇ 10 8 3 ♣ Q 9 7 6 2

W	N	E	S
–	1 D	Pass	1 S
Pass	2 S	All Pass	

Contract: Two Spades by South. Lead: queen of hearts.

Playing a strong no-trump North opened One Diamond. What do you think of North's raise to Two Spades holding only three spades? Lawrence points out that the Moysian fit (a term originating from Sonny Moyse, the editor of the *Bridge World* in the 50s, who strongly advocated the virtues of 4-3 fits) is on this hand a better contract than One No-Trump, where the seventh trick cannot be set up in time.

In Two Spades it is tempting to try and set up the club suit by using the trumps in dummy but, without a friendly lie of the cards, good defence will foil this plan. The other possible line is to take ruffs in the hand with long trumps, normally poor technique. However, this time the "dummy reversal" strategy virtually guarantees the contract. Win the opening lead and immediately set about ruffing three hearts in the South hand using dummy's three aces as the entries; you can afford to ruff high each time. The jack and ten of spades will bring the tally up to eight tricks.

"Private Bridge Lessons" costs £39.95 (inc.) from Mr Bridge (01483 489961), or Chess and Bridge (0171 388 2404). You need a PC to run it.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Times championship

The results from the first round of the national stage of *The Times* Schools Championship are now in.

The pairings for the second round are as follows: Calday Grange School v Manchester Grammar School; Cottingham High School v Oakham School; Hampton School v Tiffin School; Katherine Lady Berkeley's School v Torquay Boys Grammar School; Magdalen College School, Oxford v Ipswich School; Maidstone Boys Grammar School v St Paul's, London; Nairn Academy v Royal Belfast Academical Institute; Queen Elizabeth's Boys Grammar School v Yarm School.

Short wins

Nigel Short has tied for first place in the tournament at Dhaka in Bangladesh. Results were as follows: Short and Schulman 8.5/12; Ehlvest and Wojtkiewicz 8; Sagrebelni 7; Rahman 6.5.

White: Nigel Short
Black: Alex Wojtkiewicz
Dhaka 1999

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nc3	Nc6
3	Nge2	g6
4	d4	cxd4
5	Nxd4	Bg7
6	Be3	Nf6
7	Bc4	0-0
8	Bb3	d6
9	f3	Nxd4
10	Bxd4	Bh6
11	0-0	Be6
12	f4	Bg7
13	f5	Bxb3
14	axb3	a6
15	Kh1	Rc8
16	Qe2	e6
17	Rad1	Qe8
18	fxg6	fxg6
19	e5	dxe5
20	Bxe5	Rf7
21	Rf3	Nd5
22	Bxg7	Rxf3
23	Qxf3	Kxg7
24	Nxd5	exd5
25	Qxd5	Rxc2
26	Qxb7+	Qf7
27	Qxa6	Qxb3
28	Qa7+	Kh6
29	Qe7	Qb5
30	Qf8+	Kh5
31	Qf3+	Kh6
32	b3	Qf5
33	Qxf5	gxf5
34	Rb1	Rc5
35	b4	Rb5
36	Kg1	Kg5
37	Kf2	Kf4
38	Ke2	Ke4
39	g3	Kd4
40	Kf3	Kc3
41	Kf4	Kc2
42	Re1	h5
43	Re5	Rxb4+
44	Kxf5	Kd3
45	Kg5	h4
46	g4	h3
47	Kh4	Rb3
48	Re8	Black resigns

Diagram of final position

Keene online

You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by email. The address is keenechess@aol.com. The best contributions from Times readers will be published either here or in the Saturday Times Weekend column.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

FEASANCE
a. Feudal duty
b. Hay
c. Practicability

GRADUS
a. A dictionary
b. Part of a real tennis court
c. A step in rhetoric

FITTEN
a. A bespoke suit
b. A marsh bird
c. A lie

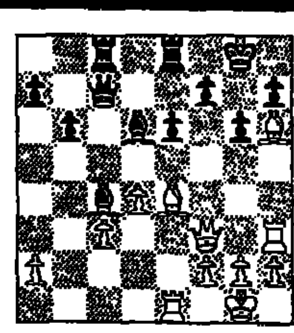
GRISON
a. A Swiss roast cheese dish
b. A quadruped
c. A linen apron

Answers on page 46

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Goswami-Murugan, Calcutta 1999. How did White power through on the kingside with a typical attacking plan?



Solution on page 46

RACING: CHAMPION JOCKEY NEEDS PROTECTION MORE THAN CONDEMNATION AT A SENSITIVE TIME

McCoy stung by whip argument

ALAN LEE



Commentary

TREVOR JONES



McCoy works on amending his whip style after the Jockey Club required his attendance at the British Racing School

Tony McCoy was at Lingfield on Saturday, doing what comes unnaturally. There were no rides for Martin Pipe, the champion trainer uncharacteristically pausing for breath after sending out a staggering 50 runners at Cheltenham, and there were no winners. Just about the only omission to console him was that there was also no invitation to the stewards' room.

McCoy is too driven to settle for a dull day at the office but in his present state of mind he might consider the weekend a minor triumph. After collecting the latest in a saga of whip-related suspensions on the middle day of Cheltenham, he is best portrayed as racing's equivalent of Emmanuel Petit.

Here are two men at the peak of their powers, each tormented by a persecution complex over what they regard as the inequitable attentions of officialdom. Petit believes his name has become a prize for referees to flaunt in their black books; McCoy darkly suspects something similar of the stewards who stalk him.

Colleagues of both men speak with concern of the "bouts of depression" to which they have become prone. Petit has threatened to leave Arsenal and English football over the issue and, when the blackness is really upon him, McCoy hints that he might give up riding if the situation does not improve. Well, improve it most certainly has not and as another summons to Portman Square looms, McCoy now has to confront the realities of his dilemma.

He must not, however, be left to do it alone. Just as Petit is being counselled by everyone at his club, McCoy needs a gathering of sensible support and advice. What he does not need is a fuelling of his already dangerous level of resentment, either by those in his corner who rage that the world is against him or from those in authority whose habit is to patronise and pillory.

McCoy is a jewel so rare that racing must seek to protect and encourage rather than routinely condemn. He is a young man who has achieved phenomenal success at a rate previously unheard of in this most punishing of professions. No horizon is beyond him, no race lost until the finish line.

The career totals of winners amassed by Peter Scudamore and Richard Dunwoody, occupied them until their mid-30s. McCoy could surpass them with a decade to spare. With 829 winners in less than five seasons of riding, he should reach 1,000 next year, if suspensions or more self-imposed exiles permit.

This, however, is a significant if: the commitment that makes him what he is, a dynamo of quite astonishing efficiency, is a virtue only until it crosses into unacceptability. And if recent rule changes have made that line clearer than it once was, it remains open to the subjective judgments of local stewards.

McCoy was stunned by a four-day ban after riding one of the easiest winners of the Cheltenham Festival, Majadou in the Mildmay of Flete Chase. By all accounts he was incandescent on returning to change and has refused to discuss the issue since. Even his agent, Dave Roberts, who previously went on record in strong defence of his man, believes no purpose can be served by comment or appeal.

Pipe, the winning trainer, did have something to say. "I saw nothing wrong at all," he said. "Everybody at the course thought Tony rode a great race and the owner was extremely happy with his ride. But, according to the stewards, owners don't matter." It is easy to appreciate Pipe's irritation at the gloss being removed from the successful execution of his Festival banker but he should know that his last comment was absurd.

Where whip offences are concerned, owners do not matter a jot. It is the horses, and the precarious image of racing, that matter and the only question is whether the stewards are being overprotective and needlessly zealous.

The suggestion, made by Pipe and not denied by the stewards, that it was a comment on Channel 4 that alerted them to McCoy's indiscretion, does not sit easily. Stewards should no more give a reflex reaction to a remark by a television commentator than football referees should be swayed by the baying of a crowd.

However, an unusual debriefing on the incident by Malcolm Wallace, the Jockey Club's Director of Regulation, was revealing. McCoy, he said, "was hitting Majadou across the ribs and he knows that is wrong. Tony does not seem to have learnt from what he was taught". This relates to McCoy's enforced attendance at the British Racing School, where he received special instruction on use of the whip after an 18-day ban imposed last November. So, did McCoy ignore such education, or are the rules conspiring against him?

Jeff King, the jockeys' jockey of his generation and now a trainer who employs McCoy whenever possible, believes the latter. There is no sterner judge of jockeys than King and he considers McCoy one of the best there has ever been. He also sympathises with him in his current predicament. "I think he suffers from the rule that stops him raising his stick above shoulder height," King said. "It means he is bringing it down across the horse's hip rather than the rump. But he's not just someone who sits on top and whacks a horse for no reason, he is trying to win races. I'm not surprised he's depressed about it."

Wallace pointed out last week that Mick Fitzgerald, jockey of the Festival, has never been suspended for misuse of the whip. It was an attempt to illustrate that the rules are not unfathomable but McCoy could as easily have interpreted it as proof that he is being singled out. He is in that mood.

This is a contentious debate and it will not easily be resolved. McCoy is a fabulous talent, regularly winning races that would be beyond most jockeys, but there are those even among his colleagues who concede his method has a technical flaw.

Meantime, his volume of rides and the pressure to win coming from the equally obsessive Pipe means that the problem is public and volatile.

Plainly, it is doing McCoy no good. When he is worried, as well as wasting, his gaunt body looks skeletal and his pale face haunted. On days like this, you feel emotional burnout is a real danger and racing has too few gems to allow that to happen.

Pace quickens as Flat season draws closer

By Alan Lee, Racing Correspondent

CHELTENHAM is scarcely over, Aintree still to come, but the turf Flat season begins on Thursday and the powerful stables are already flexing their muscles. Significant news came from Dubai and Ireland yesterday, while champion jockey Kieren Fallon learned he must miss the Worthington Lincoln Handicap next Saturday through suspension.

A week ago, Aidan O'Brien was dispatching Istabraq across the Irish Sea to defend his hurdling crown, but jump racing is now very much a sideline for the youthful master of Ballydoyle. Flat horses dominate his yard and Stravinsky, thought to be among the best of them, could make an early reappearance.

The colt, beaten twice after an impressive debut at York in August, remains fancied for the Sagitta 2,000 Guineas on May 2 and O'Brien is considering running him in a seven-furlong race at the Curragh next Sunday.

Aljabr, the first horse to beat Stravinsky, is one of the horses earmarked to represent Godolphin in the Kentucky Derby on May 1, and he remains on course despite being beaten in a private trial.

Godolphin staged an eight-runner race at the Nad Al Sheba track in Dubai, where Aljabr was a close second to Worldly Manner. Simon Crisford, racing manager to Godolphin, said: "It was a good trial — a proper race. Both horses are on schedule for Churchill Downs and there will be another trial in April."

Fallon, British champion for the past two years, will start the new season at Doncaster on Thursday, when the other scheduled meeting at Windsor is subject to an inspection tomorrow due to heavy ground. A one-day suspension picked up in Hong Kong, however, will cost him the ride on Chewit in the Lincoln.

Hong Kong's Sha Tin course was the scene of a tragedy on Saturday when the girl apprentice jockey Wai Kan, 20, was killed after being unseated during a race. Kan spent last summer in England with trainer David Nicholls and rode a winner at Haydock. "She was a lovely girl," Nicholls said. "She used to ring us every week."

Pipe nets a double

Point-to-point by Carl Evans

DAVID PIPE was odds-on to make an impression in this sport once he decided to begin training. As the son of champion trainer, Martin Pipe, he had many advantages; but you cannot blame him for that, nor for using racing between the flags as a start point on the road to becoming head of the Pond House stables.

On Saturday at the Quantock Staghounds' meeting he saddled a double, looking slightly worried when Slew Man became his thirteenth winner of the season and smiling broadly when Ibex moved him off the unlucky number.

Slew Man won the men's open, a Land Rover hunter chase qualifier, giving Ashley Farrant, 27 and one year older than Pipe, his 100th winner in all types of racing.

Farrant's day turned bad in division two of the maiden when Pipe's Forofivetwohundred fell and winded the jockey. In Farrant's absence, Tim Mitchell answered the trainer's call to guide Ibex to victory.

NEWCASTLE

ROB WRIGHT

2.00 Bamburgh Boy
2.30 Oakbury
3.00 Magslad
3.30 MONIS (nap)
4.00 Ivy House
4.35 Young Steven
5.05 Solway Breeze

Timekeeper's top rating: 4.00 BURNT IMP.

Carl Evans: 3.00 Buckshee. 4.35 Grand As Owt.

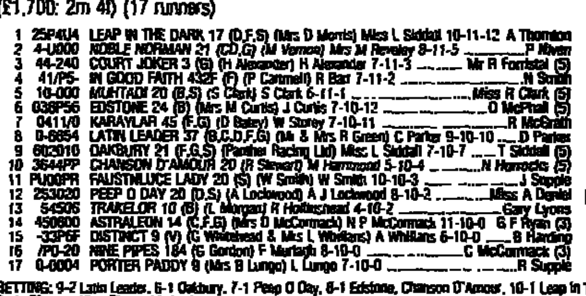
GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

2.00 NORTHERN RACING NOVICES CHASE
(£3,420: 2m 110yd) (7 runners)

1 221112 BARNBURGH BOY 30 (D,G,S) (M Burke's Family Settlement) T Easterby 5-11-12 L Wyer [illegible]
2 021436 PORNIC 30 (S) (D Dunne) M Hammond 5-11-12 .... B Harding —
3 P06 COLLEGE DON 81 (J Coupland) J Coupland 8-11-2 .... K Johnson —
4 4-45P5 COMMON SOUND 48 (D,S) (Kinneston Racing) J Barclay 8-11-2 .... A Thornton 82
5 4-0PP5 ISLE OF RHUM 10 (Hamilton House Ltd) P Monteith 7-11-2 .... B Storey —
6 231P0U KOBALT 14 (G) (I Campbell) A Whillans 5-11-0 .... I Jardine (7) —
7 -0003P BRAVE MAN 20 (S Curtis) J Curtis 5-10-8 .... O McPhail (5) —

BETTING: 4-6 Bamburgh Boy, 6-4 Pornic, 14-1 Common Sound, 33-1 Isle Of Rhum, 50-1 others.

1998: NO CORRESPONDING RACE



BARNBURGH BOY has a good opportunity to resume winning ways after running into the smart Aghawadda Gold, beaten 16 lengths, at Newcastle last month. Tim Easterby's charge had previously completed a hat-trick in novice company with a comfortable defeat of Fassan at Catterick and appears to have only the ex-French Pornic to overcome here. The latter has three chase wins at Auteuil to his name and, returning from a four-month break, ran better than the result suggests when a well-beaten sixth to Chief Wardance in a novice hurdle at Newcastle on his debut for Micky Hammond. Improvement should be forthcoming on this return to fences. The remainder are hard to fancy with Common Sound yet to translate his (modest) hurdling form to fences.

2.30 NORTHERN IMAGE SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
(£1,700: 2m 4f) (17 runners)

1 25P4U4 LEAP IN THE DARK 17 (D,F,S) (Mrs D Morris) Miss L Siddall 10-11-12 A Thornton 45
2 4-U000 NOBLE NORMAN 21 (CD,G) (M Vernon) Mrs M Reveley 8-11-5 .... P Niven 46
3 44-240 COURT JOKER 3 (G) (H Alexander) H Alexander 7-11-3 .... Mr R Forristal (5) 69
4 41/P5- IN GOOD FAITH 432F (F) (P Cannell) R Barr 7-11-2 .... N Smith —
5 10-000 MUHTADI 20 (B,S) (S Clark) S Clark 6-11-1 .... Miss R Clark (5) 55
6 038P56 EDSTONE 24 (B) (Mrs M Curtis) J Curtis 7-10-12 .... O McPhail (5) 63
7 0411/0 KARAYLAR 45 (F,G) (D Batey) W Storey 7-10-11 .... R McGrath —
8 0-6654 LATIN LEADER 37 (B,C,D,F,G) (Mr & Mrs R Green) C Parker 9-10-10 .... D Parker 74
9 602010 OAKBURY 21 (F,G,S) (Panther Racing Ltd) Miss L Siddall 7-10-7 .... T Siddall (5) 81
10 3644PP CHANSON D'AMOUR 20 (R Stewart) M Hammond 5-10-4 .... N Horrocks (5) 83
11 PU00PR FAUSTINLUCE LADY 20 (S) (W Smith) W Smith 10-10-3 .... J Supple —
12 253020 PEEP O DAY 20 (D,S) (A Lockwood) A J Lockwood 8-10-2 .... Miss A Deniel [illegible]
13 54505 TRAKELOR 10 (B) (L Morgan) R Hollinshead 4-10-2 .... Gary Lyons 79
14 450600 ASTRALEON 14 (C,F,G) (Mrs D McCormack) N P McCormack 11-10-0 G F Ryan (3) 79
15 -33P6F DISTINCT 9 (V) (G Whitehead & Miss L Whillans) A Whillans 6-10-0 .... B Harding 78
16 /P0-20 NINE PIPES 184 (G Gordon) F Murtagh 8-10-0 .... C McCormack (3) 59
17 0-0004 PORTER PADDY 8 (Mrs B Lungo) L Lungo 7-10-0 .... R Supple —

BETTING: 9-2 Latin Leader, 6-1 Oakbury, 7-1 Peep O Day, 8-1 Edstone, Chanson D'Amour, 10-1 Leap In The Dark, Distinct, Nine Pipes, 12-1 others.

1998: WATER FONT 6-10-8 R McGrath (evens fav) J J O'Neill 12 ran

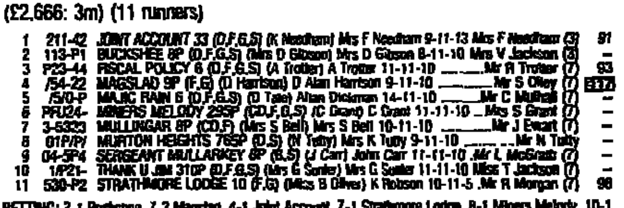
A low-grade handicap where stakes should be kept to a minimum. Few of the 17 runners have performed with any consistency throughout the season. Chanson D'Amour disappointing on her last two starts after finishing a respectable ten lengths fourth to Jack Flush in a Catterick seller in December. OAKBURY does at least pop up on occasions, albeit that his three wins have all been gained at Market Rasen, and he was not disgraced when returning from a two-month absence and finishing seventh of 19 to Western General in a similar event here three weeks ago. Edstone, 10lb out of the handicap in a non-seller last time, can be given claims on his previous fifth to Moonshine Dancer at Catterick (Noble Norman ninth and held), and Trakelor may now do better stepped up in distance. Of the others, Latin Leader has shown his best form on a sound surface, Peep O Day is ideally suited by further, while Distinct returns to hurdling after failing to take to fences his last three starts.

3.00 NORTHUMBERLAND HUSSARS HUNTERS CHASE
(£2,666: 3m) (11 runners)

1 211-42 JOINT ACCOUNT 33 (D,F,G,S) (K Needham) Mrs F Needham 9-11-13 Mrs F Needham (3) 91
2 113-P1 BUCKSHEE 8P (D,F,G,S) (Mrs D Gibson) Mrs D Gibson 8-11-10 Mrs V Jackson (3) —
3 P23-44 FISCAL POLICY 6 (D,F,G,S) (A Trotter) A Trotter 11-11-10 .... Mr R Trotter (7) 93
4 /54-22 MAGSLAD 9P (F,G) (D Harrison) D Alan Harrison 9-11-10 .... Mr S Olley (7) [illegible]
5 /5/0-P MAJIC RAIN 6 (D,F,G,S) (D Tate) Allan Dickman 14-11-10 .... Mr C Mulhall (7) —
6 PFU24- MINERS MELODY 295P (CD,F,G,S) (C Grant) C Grant 11-11-10 .... Mrs S Grant (7) —
7 3-5323 MULLINGAR 8P (CD,F) (Mrs S Bell) Mrs S Bell 10-11-10 .... Mr J Ewart (7) —
8 01P/P/ MURTON HEIGHTS 765P (D,S) (N Tutty) Mrs K Tutty 9-11-10 .... Mr N Tutty —
9 04-5P4 SERGEANT MULLARKEY 8P (B,S) (J Carr) John Carr 11-11-10 Mr L McGrath (7) —
10 1/P21- THANK U JIM 310P (D,F,G,S) (Mrs G Sunter) Mrs G Sunter 11-11-10 Miss T Jackson (7) —
11 530-P2 STRATHMORE LODGE 10 (F,G) (Miss B Olives) K Robson 10-11-5 Mr R Morgan (7) 98

BETTING: 3-1 Buckshee, 7-2 Magslad, 4-1 Joint Account, 7-1 Strathmore Lodge, 8-1 Miners Melody, 10-1 Fiscal Policy, Thank U Jim, 12-1 others.

1998: HOWAYMAN 8-11-13 Mr K Anderson (5-4) K Anderson 4 ran



JOINT ACCOUNT has plenty of potential and appeals as the one to beat after his fine second to the useful Coole Abbey at Musselburgh last month on his debut for new connections. He failed to help his cause with some tardy jumping that day and improvement in that area will make him a tough opponent in hunter-chase company. Magslad, trained by Jonjo O'Neill when an excellent second to King Of Sparta in a novice chase at Uttoxeter last June, undoubtedly has ability and should be cherry-ripe following his four-length second in a men's open at Dalston nine days ago. Buckshee enters the reckoning after his win in a confined at Corbridge, while Mullingar finished third in a men's open over three miles five furlongs on the same card. Strathmore Lodge showed that she retains ability when chasing home Howayman at Ayr recently and should again be there or thereabouts.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Wins	Rnrs	%
C Thornton	5	15	33.3	A Dempsey	5	13	38.5
Mrs M Reveley	50	197	25.4	P Niven	44	149	29.5
J FitzGerald	10	58	17.2	M Foster	7	38	18.4
L Lungo	12	82	14.6	A Dobbin	18	128	14.1
C Parker	6	43	14.0	D Parker	7	53	13.2
J J O'Neill	5	40	12.5	A Thornton	6	47	12.8

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Newcastle: 2.30 Distinct, Muhtadi. Southwell: 2.15 Rosie Jaques. 2.45 Scold. 4.15 Gold Chance, My Mother's Dream.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 B West (7) 88

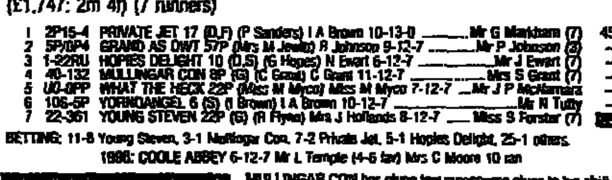
Racecard number. Six-figure form (F—fell. P—pulled up. U—unseated rider. B—brought down. S—slipped up. R—refused. D—disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: F if flat. (B—blinkers. V—visor. H—hood. E—Eyeshield. C—course winner. D—distance winner. CD—course and distance winner. BF—beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F—firm, good to firm, hard. G—good. S—soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. Timekeeper's speed rating

3.30 JOHN SMITH'S NOVICES CLAIMING HURDLE
(£2,306: 2m) (10 runners)

1 00/0/0 SPLENDID OCCASION 21 (Mrs A Bell) W Cunningham 9-11-6 .... N Smith 53
2 00 AELRED 21 (J Gledson) R Johnson 6-11-5 .... K Johnson 28
3 0/003- GEM OF HOLLY 384 (R Wood) R Wood 6-11-4 .... Mr C R Weaver (7) —
4 R23446 MONIS 6 (D,F) (C Sherry) B Ellison 8-11-3 .... R Johnson [illegible]
5 PPU3P5 OLLIES BOY 10 (Kinneston Racing) J Barclay 8-11-3 .... C McCormack (3) 32
6 002P DONNA'S DANCER 33 (V) (S Roper) Mrs A Naughton 5-11-1 .... J Supple 15
7 5/0 ROYAL CHIP 30 (Mrs J Milligan) Miss K Milligan 7-11-1 .... R Guest 28
8 0000P8 OVER STATED 6 (I Park) I Park 9-10-13 .... M H Naughton (5) 37
9 560404 ONE STOP 6 (M Brennan) M Barnes 6-10-6 .... S Taylor 63
10 -60350 PRO VERITATE 37 (J Clark & Partners) C Thornton 6-10-8 .... M Foster 65

BETTING: 5-2 Monis, 11-4 One Stop, 7-2 Donna's Dancer, 4-1 Pro Veritate, 10-1 Ollies Boy, 20-1 Splendid Occasion, 25-1 Gem Of Holly, 33-1 others.

1998: ALPINE HIDEAWAY 5-11-13 R Garritty (2-1 fav) M W Easterby 14 ran



MONIS can make the most of this drop in class. The winner of an 18-runner novices' event at Catterick in November, he has been in the handicapper's grip of late but has nevertheless been running well in defeat. Donna's Dancer appeared to find three miles too far when disappointing last time and may prove the main threat. The form of his previous second to Bit O Magic in a Musselburgh maiden (2m 4f) reads well enough at this level. Pro Veritate hinted at some ability in bumpers but has so far shown only poor form over hurdles, while One Stop remains a maiden and is one of the most exposed in the line up.

4.00 GOSFORTH BUILDING AND DECORATING SERVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,550: 3m) (7 runners)

1 /3F334 IVY HOUSE 49 (B,BF,D,G,S) (Mrs L Joughin) J J O'Neill 11-11-10 .... R McGrath 111
2 333253 BURNT IMP 37 (C,F,G,S) (N Mason) G M Moore 9-11-8 .... J Callaghan [illegible]
3 12F362 SOLSGIRTH 17 (G,S) (Kinneston Farmers) J Barclay 8-11-4 .... C McCormack (3) 114
4 052-P1 NIJWAY 10 (D,F,G,S) (T Barnes) M Barnes 9-11-3 .... S Taylor 69
5 61F405 CARLEY LAD 34 (D,S) (N Mason) N Mason 11-11-2 .... R Guest 114
6 112244 SNIPER 21 (S) (C Bigley Partnership Ltd) F Murtagh 7-10-10 .... A Dobbin 106
7 -03205 HARDEN GLEN 21 (D,S) (M Walton) Mrs J Storey 8-10-0 .... B Storey 115

BETTING: 5-2 Burnt Imp, 7-2 Solsgirth, 9-2 Ivy House, 6-1 Sniper, 7-1 Nijway, 8-1 Carley Lad, 10-1 Harden Glen.

1998: JUKE BOX BILLY 10-11-10 A Thornton (10-11 fav) Mrs J Brown 3 ran

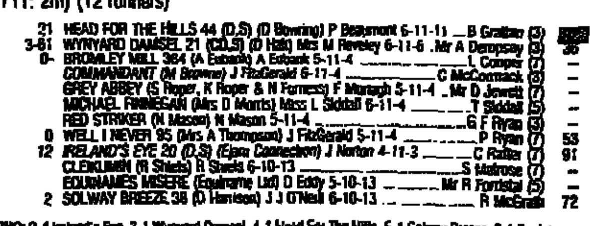
Ivy House, blinkered on his last three starts and below his best last time, may do better after a seven-week break but is ideally suited by a greater test of stamina and has become expensive to follow. Burnt Imp, a winner at Kelso in October, has also gone off the boil (and is probably best at shorter), so SOLSGIRTH could be the one to be on. A winner three times last autumn, he has retained his form well and suggested his turn was near when an eased-down second to Shanagarry at Kelso last time. Trip and ground are both ideal. Nijway has broken blood vessels but could not be faulted when defying odds of 50-1 in beating Weaver George a length at Ayr 10 days ago. However, the fourth-last departure of the challenging Fen Terrier eased his task that day, and a 4lb rise in the weights makes this tougher still. Confirmed front-runner Sniper folded disappointingly when 20 lengths fourth to Tonis Tip over course and distance three weeks ago but has claims if at the top of his game.

4.35 TOWN & COUNTRY BARS NOVICES HUNTERS CHASE
(£1,747: 2m 4f) (7 runners)

1 2P15-4 PRIVATE JET 17 (D,F) (P Sanders) I A Brown 10-13-0 .... Mr G Markham (7) 45
2 5P/0P4 GRAND AS OWT 57P (Mrs M Jewitt) R Johnson 9-12-7 .... Mr P Johnson (3) —
3 1-22RU HOPIES DELIGHT 10 (D,S) (G Hopes) N Ewart 6-12-7 .... Mr J Ewart (7) —
4 40-132 MULLINGAR CON 9P (G) (C Grant) C Grant 11-12-7 .... Mrs S Grant (7) —
5 U0-0PP WHAT THE HECK 22P (Miss M Myco) Miss M Myco 7-12-7 .... Mr J P McNamara —
6 106-5P YORNOANGEL 6 (S) (I Brown) I A Brown 10-12-7 .... Mr N Tutty —
7 22-361 YOUNG STEVEN 22P (G) (R Flynn) Mrs J Hollands 8-12-7 .... Miss S Forster (7) [illegible]

BETTING: 11-8 Young Steven, 3-1 Mullingar Con, 7-2 Private Jet, 5-1 Hopies Delight, 25-1 others.

1998: COOLE ABBEY 6-12-7 Mr L Temple (4-6 fav) Mrs C Moore 10 ran



MULLINGAR CON has given few racecourse clues to his ability (he was out of action for five years prior to 1997/98 when returning to action for Barney Curley and showing form in a selling handicap hurdle), but is worth this chance to confirm the promise of recent point-to-point showings. Successful in a maiden in February, he lost valuable ground when his rider lost her irons midrace in a restricted at Charm Park eight days ago and did well to run Just Coming to half a length. Young Steven made things difficult for himself with some sloppy jumping when a beaten favourite (around 26 lengths sixth to Andy Burnett) in a hunter chase at Kelso at the start of February. He has since gained a confidence-boosting victory between the flags and looks a major player here. Private Jet won a similar race at Hexham last season and should strip fitter for his reappearance fourth to Hiltonstown Lass at Doncaster.

5.05 ST MODWEN INTERMEDIATE NATIONAL HUNT FLAT
(£1,711: 2m) (12 runners)

1 21 HEAD FOR THE HILLS 44 (D,S) (D Bowring) P Beaumont 6-11-11 .... B Grattan (3) [illegible]
2 3-61 WYNYARD DAMSEL 21 (CD,S) (D Hall) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-6 .... Mr A Dempsey (3) 36
3 0- BROMLEY MILL 364 (A Eubank) A Eubank 5-11-4 .... L Cooper (7) —
4 COMMANDANT (M Browne) J FitzGerald 6-11-4 .... C McCormack (3) —
5 GREY ABBEY (S Roper, K Roper & N Forness) F Murtagh 5-11-4 .... Mr D Jewett (7) —
6 MICHAEL FINNEGAN (Mrs D Morris) Miss L Siddall 6-11-4 .... T Siddall (5) —
7 RED STRIKER (N Mason) N Mason 5-11-4 .... G F Ryan (3) —
8 0 WELL I NEVER 95 (Mrs A Thompson) J FitzGerald 5-11-4 .... P Ryan (7) 53
9 12 IRELAND'S EYE 20 (D,S) (Ejam Connection) J Norton 4-11-3 .... C Rafter (7) 91
10 CLEIKUMIN (R Shiels) R Shiels 6-10-13 .... S Melrose (7) —
11 EQUINAMES MISERE (Equiname Ltd) D Eddy 5-10-13 .... Mr R Forristal (5) —
12 2 SOLWAY BREEZE 38 (D Harrison) J J O'Neill 6-10-13 .... R McGrath 72

BETTING: 9-4 Ireland's Eye, 3-1 Wynyard Damsel, 4-1 Head For The Hills, 5-1 Solway Breeze, 8-1 Equinames Misere, 16-1 Commandant, 25-1 Red Striker, Well I Never, 33-1 others.

1998: DOUBLE CHIMES 4-10-5 S Taylor (20-1) M Dods 21 ran

WYNYARD DAMSEL, a sister to the useful novice chaser Wynyard Knight, is an interesting one for the future having shaped well her three starts in bumpers. She was in command from a long way out when confirming earlier promise with a six-length beating of Shuildante over track and trip last time. Head For The Hills made every post a winning one when scoring by two lengths from Mister Graham at Wetherby, and, like Ireland's Eye, winner of a maiden event at Catterick, should soon be adding to his gains. Solway Breeze belied odds of 20-1 when running Elegant City close in a mares' bumper at Bangor last month and is impossible to rule out.

MEETING POINTS

THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE GOING TODAY

EARLY BIRD
Noukari (3-45 Southwell)

NEWCASTLE
Jumps, 7 race card
1st race: 2.00
Winning favourites: 43.0%
Long distance travellers: Trakelor (2.30), 185 miles, College Don (2.00) 149 miles

SOUTHWELL
Flat, 6 race card
1st race: 2.15
Winning favourites: 33.5%
Long distance travellers: Linguistic Dancer (2.15), Bebe Cosmonaut (3.15), Cosmic Altitude (4.15) 242 miles.

TV: None of today's meetings

Underfoot conditions
Standard Hard Firm Good Soft Heavy

See racecards for detailed going

SOUTHWELL

ROB WRIGHT

2.15 Moonlight Flit. 2.45 Alamein. 3.15 Press Times. 3.45 China Castle. 4.15 Thornaby Girl. 4.50 Ambitious.

GOING: STANDARD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS
DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

2.15 TROON APPRENTICE FILLIES HANDICAP
(£2,484: 1m) (10 runners)

101 (1) 010- OVER THE MOON 170 Miss Wilton 5-10-0 .... J Savage (5) 60
102 (6) 0334 MOONLIGHT FLIT 14 (F) J Eyre 4-8-10 .... D Young (7) 65
103 (8) -320 RIVER ENSIGN 9 (C,G,S) W Brisbourne 6-8-9 P Bradley 73
104 (9) 8-06 ROSIE JAQUES 32 (B) N Littmoden 4-8-9 .... C Carver 51
105 (7) 00-0 CRYSTAL CRAZE 4 P Bowen 4-8-8 .... Claire Bryan (5) 52
106 (4) 0536 KARINSKA 3 (CD,F,G,S) M Chapman 9-8-6 .... S Righton 52
107 (3) /00- EVERY PENNY 101 R Phillips 4-8-2 .... C Cogan —
108 (10) 000- PALACEGATE JO 156 (C,D,G,S) D Chapman 8-7-12 .... D Mernagh —
109 (5) 00-3 LINGUISTIC DANCER 24 A Newcombe 4-7-11 P Fitzsimons 60
110 (2) 0650 SING FOR ME 19 R Hollinshead 4-7-10 .... P M Quinn (3) [illegible]

3-1 Moonlight Flit, 7-2 Karinska, 9-2 River Ensign, 5-1 Linguistic Dancer, 6-1 Over The Moon, 8-1 Rosie Jaques, 25-1 others.

2.45 CARNOUSTIE STAKES (£2,173: 7f) (10)

201 (1) 3114 ALAMEIN 30 (CD,F,G) D Nicholls 6-9-8 .... Alex Greaves [illegible]
202 (8) 256- SEVEN 171 (B) B Smart 4-9-8 .... P Goode (5) 64
203 (7) 1542 C-HARRY 19 (CD,G,S) R Hollinshead 5-9-7 .... W Ryan 74
204 (2) 1123 ELITE HOPE 19 (BF,CD,G) N Tinkler 7-9-7 .... G Carter 78
205 (5) 4103 ABTAAL 6 (V,CD,F,G) Mrs N Macauley 9-9-6 P McCabe 70
206 (10) 056- MUSTN'T GRUMBLE 219J (CD,F,G) Miss S Wilton 9-9-5 .... J Quinn 82
207 (9) 0-00 ARAB GOLD 12 M Quinn 4-9-4 .... F Norton 47
208 (4) 3245 AWESOME VENTURE 3 (CD,S) M Chapman 9-9-3 .... S Righton (7) 64
209 (3) 000- SCOLD 37J (B) G Kelly 4-8-12 .... S Finnamore (7) —
210 (6) /060 SHARP HOLLY 27 M Bradstock 7-8-11 .... T Smith (5) 35

5-4 Alamein, 7-2 Elite Hope, 9-2 C-Harry, 10-1 Seven, Abtaal, Awesome Venture, 25-1 Mustn't Grumble, 33-1 others.

3.15 MUIRFIELD STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,773: 1m) (9)

301 (1) 3236 HEATHYARDS JAKE 14 R Hollinshead 9-0 P M Quinn (7) [illegible]
302 (9) 0- MOSI-OA-TUNYA 160 K McAuliffe 9-0 .... J F Egan —
303 (4) 006- OULTON BROAD 173 J Pearce 9-0 .... R Studholme (5) 31
304 (7) 6- PRESS TIMES 287 T Easterby 9-0 .... L Charnock 21
305 (8) SHANGHAI CRAB M Bell 9-0 .... M Fenton —
306 (3) -305 BEBE COSMONAUT 28 A Newcombe 8-9 .... J Quinn 49
307 (6) 040- LOVELY ISLAND 105 R J Houghton 8-9 .... S Whitworth 60
308 (2) ROONAH QUAY J Eyre 8-9 .... R Lappin —
309 (5) 0- TRIMILIO 179 T Etherington 8-9 .... D Pears 36

7-4 Heathyards Jake, 11-4 Press Times, 4-1 Shanghai Crab, 8-1 Lovely Island, 10-1 Bebe Cosmonaut, 12-1 Roonah Quay, 16-1 Trimilio, 50-1 others.

3.45 LADBROKE [SHOWCASE] HANDICAP
(£6,938: 1m 4f) (8)

401 (1) 3113 CHINA CASTLE 9 (CD) P Haslam 6-10-1 .... P Goode (5) 92
402 (6) 16-3 PRIMARY COLOURS 47 (C,D,S) J Pearce 4-8-9 .... R Price 74
403 (2) 0-30 STEAMROLLER STANLY 2 (D,F) K Burke 6-9-5 J F Egan 87
404 (5) 040- BAWSIAN 148 (B,S) J Eyre 4-8-2 .... C Lowther 98
405 (8) 5211 SWIFT 6 (CD) M Polglase 5-8-4 (6ex) .... Dean McKeown [illegible]
406 (4) 2-12 STATE APPROVAL 6 (BF,CD,F) D Shaw 6-7-12 .... P Fitzsimons (7) 87
407 (3) 004- LUCKY BEGONIA 143 (CD,S) A Carroll 6-7-12 F Norton 87
408 (7) 4433 NOUKARI 6 (CD) P Evans 6-7-10 .... J Quinn 98

5-2 China Castle, 3-1 Primary Colours, 6-1 Bawsian, 7-1 Steamroller Stanly, 8-1 Swift, Lucky Begonia, 10-1 State Approval, 14-1 Noukari.

4.15 SANDWICH SELLING STAKES
(3-Y-O: £1,839: 5f) (12)

501 (10) 5021 KEEN HANDS 3 (V,C,D) Mrs N Macauley 9-4 .... R Price 89
502 (7) 4323 LEGAL VENTURE 9 (B) N Littmoden 9-4 .... T G McLaughlin 73
503 (6) 5140 LOUGHANLEA 9 (B) D Nicholls 9-4 .... F Norton 57
504 (1) 3465 DOLLY DAY DREAM 19 (V,F) K Ivory 8-13 .... C Catlin (7) 66
505 (4) -256 LADY CARBRON 9 (D) J Berry 8-13 .... K Darley [illegible]
506 (5) 2-60 THORNABY GIRL 60 (D,G) T Barron 8-13 .... J Carroll 64
507 (8) 00-0 COSMIC ALTITUDE 19 A Newcombe 8-12 .... J Quinn 23
508 (12) 00-0 GOLD CHANCE 35 (V) G Chung 8-12 .... O Urbina 68
509 (11) 00-0 REAL TING 19 (V) P Evans 8-12 .... J F Egan 20
510 (9) U-0 JO'S PRINCESS 9 J Jenkins 8-7 .... A Culhane —
511 (3) 506- MY MOTHER'S DREAM 86 (V) A T Murphy 8-7 .... Dean McKeown 49
512 (2) 5-63 WEETRAIN 19 J Given 8-7 .... R FitzPatrick (5) 83

3-1 Thornaby Girl, 9-2 Keen Hands, 11-2 Legal Venture, 6-1 Lady Carbron, 7-1 Weetrain, 8-1 Dolly Day Dream, 12-1 Loughanlea, 16-1 others.

4.50 ST ANDREWS HANDICAP (£2,608: 6f) (13)

601 (5) 5221 NIFTY NORMAN 6 (CD,G,S) D Nicholls 5-10-8 (6ex) .... P Clarke (7) 70
602 (3) 2443 SAMWAR 6 (V,D,G) Mrs N Macauley 7-9-11 P McCabe 81
603 (13) -827 AMBITIOUS 31 (V,CD) J Fanshawe 4-9-9 .... W Ryan 69
604 (2) 6000 ALJAZ 12 (CD,S) Miss G Kelleway 9-9-5 .... J F Egan 77
605 (9) 0-06 SHARP PEARL 48 (B,F) D Cosgrove 6-9-4 S Whitworth [illegible]
606 (4) 1324 CHALUZ 4 (C,D) N Littmoden 5-8-11 .... J Quinn 79
607 (7) 4200 RUDE AWAKENING 12 (B) C Fairhurst 5-8-9 .... C Lowther 84
608 (12) 42-1 MARY HANNAH 72 A Senior 6-8-6 .... A Polli (3) 86
609 (1) 6420 HEAVENLY MISS 39 (D,F) D Shaw 5-8-6 .... J Fanning 82
610 (8) 0660 DESERT INVADER 4 (C,D) D Chapman 8-8-6 A Culhane 94
611 (10) 0-00 MARJORIE ROSE 21 (D,G) R Brotherton 6-8-1 F Norton 60
612 (11) 000- BREAKIN EVEN 119 (B,D,G) J Eyre 4-7-13 L Charnock 85
613 (6) 000- CHI-LIN 105 P Butler 4-7-12 .... P M Quinn (7) 64

5-2 Ambitious, 5-1 Samwar, 6-1 Nifty Norman, 7-1 Mary Hannah, 10-1 Chaluz, Breakin Even, 14-1 Aljaz, Rude Awakening, Heavenly Miss, 16-1 others.

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Uttoxeter

Going: good to soft

1.15 (2m 5f ch) 1, Just Jasmine (R Greene, 11-2 fav); 2, Pearl's Choice (50-1); 3, Jessolle (16-1). 14 ran. 4l, 8l. K Bishop. Tote: £5.80; £2.20, £14.30, £5.00. DF: £186.20. CSF: £216.57. Tricast: £3,671.79.

1.45 (3m 2f ch) 1, Smarty (N Williamson, 5-2 fav); 2, Kinnahalla (10-1); 3, Section Seven (13-2). 9 ran. 6l, 7l. Mrs J Pitman. Tote: £3.00; £1.60, £3.10, £2.00. DF: £22.90. CSF: £24.21. Tricast: £130.43.

2.20 (4m 2f ch) 1, Young Kenny (B Powell, 5-2 fav); 2, Call It A Day (12-1); 3, Hollybank Buck (11-1). 14 ran. NR: Miss Diskin. 8l, 1½l. P Beaumont. Tote: £3.60; £2.00, £2.90, £3.20. DF: £25.40. Trifecta: £529.70. CSF: £29.57. Tricast: £263.70.

2.50 (2m 6f 110yd hdle) 1, Wisley Wonder (C Llewellyn, 5-1); 2, Balanak (10-1); 3, Green Crusader (9-2). Scoring Pedigree (5th) 5-2 fav. 8 ran. ¾l, 2½l. N Twiston-Davies. Tote: £6.30; £2.30, £2.60. DF: £18.70. CSF: £43.65.

3.25 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, Jungli (J A McCarthy, 5-4 fav); 2, Polar Flight (3-1); 3, Percy Parkeeper (2-1). 6 ran. 18l, 9l. P Webber. Tote: £2.30; £1.30, £1.70. DF: £2.60. CSF: £4.99.

4.00 (2m 5f ch) 1, Irbee (J Tizzard, 8-11 fav); 2, Kings Cherry (7-1); 3, Ballyline (5-1). 5 ran. 1¾l, dist. P Nicholls. Tote: £1.60; £1.20, £2.20. DF: £5.30. CSF: £6.04.

4.35 (2m hdle) 1, Explain This (R Dunwoody, 5-6 fav); 2, Smoking Gun (40-1); 3, Harem Scarem (9-4). 7 ran. 11l, 5l. C Mann. Tote: £1.80; £1.50, £6.20. DF: £31.50. CSF: £30.12.

Placepot: £159.70. Quadpot: £20.70.

Newcastle

Going: soft, good to soft in places

1.50 1, Camlex Capers (14-1); 2, High Pyrenees (11-1); 3, Ralvue (2-7 fav). 22 ran.

2.25 1, Moneyman (100-30); 2, Minster Glory (5-2 jt-fav); 3, Another Red (11-2). 5 ran. NR: Tapatch.

2.55 1, Merry Masquerade (6-4 fav); 2, Attadale (9-2); 3, Scotmail Lad (4-1). 8 ran.

3.25 1, Keen To The Last (7-4 fav); ... Yelapa Prince (100-1). 7 ran.

3.55 1, To-Day To-Day (5-1); 2, Lanacar Lane (20-1); 3, Lord Pat (6-1). Curtensstachopwell 9-4 fav. 13 ran.

4.25 1, Flat Top (5-2); 2, Jymjam Johnny (9-2); 3, Bright Destiny (11-4). Major Bell 9-4 fav. 5 ran.

Market Rasen

Going: good to soft, soft in places

2.10 1, Ibn Masirah (2-1 fav); 2, Far Finnish (8-1); 3, Fortune Hopper (16-1). 7 ran.

2.45 1, Jessica One (11-2); 2, Golden Thunderbolt (8-1); 3, African Sun (25-1). Springfield Scally 15-8 fav. 12 ran. NR: El Don.

3.15 1, Whitby (33-1); 2, Dry Hill Lad (9-2); 3, Dande Dove (66-1). Carrick Troop 7-4 fav. 9 ran.

3.50 1, Jazzman (11-10 jt-fav); 2, Mademist Sam (10-1); 3, Althrey Pilot (25-1). 4 ran.

4.20 1, Lobuche (8-1); 2, Stage Whisper (3-1 fav); 3, Salvage (20-1). 10 ran.

4.50 1, Dragons Bay (10-11 fav); 2, Brambleberry (6-1); 3, Down The Yard (12-1). 5 ran.

5.25 1, Obelisk (9-2); 2, Script For Life (9-1); 3, Soeur de Sentier (11-8 fav). 14 ran.

Lingfield Park

Going: good to soft

2.05 1, High Game (2-9 fav); 2, Richie's Delight (40-1); 3, Wild Blade (20-1). 6 ran.

2.40 1, Salcotino (9-4 fav); 2, Tiger Paws (9-2); 3, Stratton Flyer (40-1). 14 ran. NR: Old Archives.

3.10 1, Boulevard Bay (9-1); 2, Jazzy Refrain (33-1); 3, Northern Saddler (7-1). Red Bean 100-30 fav. 10 ran.

3.40 1, Pealings (8-1); 2, Warm Spell (11-4 fav); 3, Equity's Darling (9-2). 9 ran.

4.10 1, Supreme Sound (9-1); 2, Sick As A Parrot (25-1); 3, Tallulah Belle (25-1). Refuse To Lose 6-4 fav. 14 ran.

4.40 1, Rare Occurance (11-10 jt-fav); 2, Melling (11-10 jt-fav); 3, Jakes Justice (66-1). 6 ran.

5.10 1, Another Chancer (6-1); 2, Ball Strong (10-1); 3, Weapons Free (16-1). Brown Seal 7-2 fav. 13 ran.

JUMP LEADERS

TRAINERS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Rup. stake	Level stakes
M Pipe	129	79	75	5	-149.84
Mrs M Reveley	88	62	56	2	-12.64
P Nicholls	79	66	26	2	-1.14
P Hobbs	71	64	44	9	-15.66
Miss V Williams	62	32	31	5	-7.98
N Henderson	61	44	32	4	+3.45
D Nicholson	60	55	54	4	-43.28

JOCKEYS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Losing sequence	Level stakes
A P McCoy	138	86	61	14	-129.92
R Johnson	105	104	100	8	[illegible]
M A Fitzgerald	104	55	62	3	[illegible]
N Williamson	100	63	60	3	[illegible]
R Dunwoody	92	61	49	0	-54.16
A Maguire	65	45	51	2	-92.15

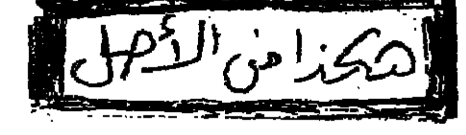
SPECIALISTS

SOUTHWELL: Trainers: Miss S Wilton, 12 winners from 44 runners, 27.3%; A Carroll, 4 from 15, 26.7%; P Haslam, 24 from 133, 18.0%; T Barron, 26 from 151, 17.2%; M Bell, 9 from 53, 17.0%. Jockeys: C Carver, 8 winners from 19 rides, 42.1%; R FitzPatrick, 10 from 35, 28.6%; R Studholme, 5 from 27, 18.5%; P McCabe, 22 from 148, 14.9%; C Lowther, 21 from 154, 13.6%.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: IVY HOUSE (4.00 Newcastle)





FOR THE RECORD

BOWLS

[illegible] ... Walker (Kingsthorpe) 21-11; P Last (Ipswich) bt G Hatherall (Swindon Westlecot) 21-16, R Newman (Whiteknights) bt R Bell (Elmbridge) 21-14, H Watts (Isis) bt G Hesketh (Preston) 21-15; S Skelton (Scunthorpe) bt J Evans (Torquay) 21-19; M Royal (Mid Suffolk) bt S Remington (North Wilts) 21-10; M Walton (Ryedale) bt G Smith (Spalding) 21-9; G Charlton (Folkestone) bt I Bond (Exonia) 21-18. **Quarter-finals:** Holt bt Last 21-19; Newman bt Watts 21-11; Royal bt Skelton 21-20; Charlton bt Walton 21-10. **Semi-finals:** Newman bt Holt 21-18; Royal bt Charlton 21-20.

[illegible]

CRICKET

Third Test match

New Zealand v South Africa

WELLINGTON (fourth day of five): New Zealand, with three second-innings wickets in hand, trail South Africa by 59 runs.

NEW ZEALAND: First Innings 222 (G R [illegible] 5 for 33)

Second Innings

[illegible] ... 2
[illegible] ... 27
[illegible] ... 5
[illegible] ... 62
[illegible] ... 33
[illegible] ... 41
[illegible] ... 19
[illegible] ... 4
[illegible] ... 12
[illegible] ... 12

Total (7 wkts) ... 217

[illegible] 4-100, [illegible]

BOWLING: [illegible] Elworthy [illegible] Klusener [illegible]

SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings

[illegible] ... 40
[illegible] ... 120
[illegible] ... 17
[illegible] ... 152
[illegible] ... 72
[illegible] ... 3
[illegible] ... 43
[illegible] ... 8
[illegible] ... 19
[illegible] ... 3
Extras [illegible] ... 21

Total (8 wkts dec) ... 498

FALL OF WICKETS: [illegible] 3-258, 4-403, 5-415, 6-420, 7-440, 8-488.

BOWLING: Doull 24-4-77-0; O'Connor 24-4-89-1; Nash 25-7-78-2; Vettori 54-16-153-4; Harris 22-0-88-0; Astle 16-8-21-1.

TOUR MATCH: St John's, Antigua (at tea second day of four): Australia 303 (J L Langer 134, C L Hooper 5 for 53) and 129-2; West Indies A 102.

TRI-NATIONS TOURNAMENT: Saturday: Dhaka (50 overs): Bangladesh 213 (S Hossain 95); Kenya 215-2 (S Tikolo 106, M Odumbe 58). Kenya beat Bangladesh by eight wickets. **Sunday:** Zimbabwe 310-6 (A Flower 79, A D R Campbell 55). Bangladesh 184 (M Hossain 73). Zimbabwe beat Bangladesh by 126 runs

SHEFFIELD SHIELD FINAL: Third day of five: Brisbane: Queensland 265 (A Symonds 113) and 32-1; Western Australia 425-9 dec (S Katich 115, D R Martyn 85, B P Julian 84).

BUSTA CUP FINAL: First day of four: Barbados: Barbados 258-8 (S L Campbell 62, A F G Griffith 58)

CYCLING

Road races

SAN REMO, Italy: Milan to San Remo Classic: 294km: 1, A Tchmil (Bel) 6hr 52min 37sec; 2, E Zabel (Ger) at same time; 3, Z Spruch (Pol); 4, S Garzelli (It); 5, L Aus (Est); 6, E van Bon (Ned); 7, P Van Petegem (Bel); 8, J Planckaert (Bel); 9, G Hincapie (US); 10, G Balducci (It) all same time. **British placing:** 21, M Sciandri at same time.

GRAND PRIX OF ESSEX (BCF Premier Calendar, Halstead, 102 miles): 1, C Walker (Linda McCartney Foods CT) 4hr 11min 24sec; 2, G McCauley (Team Men's Health) at 1sec; 3, R Hayles (Doyle Pursuits) same time.

ASHFIELD CLASSIC (Selston, Nottinghamshire, 83 miles): 1, N Swithenbank (SG Bollington) 2:25:00; 2, D Coulson (JE James RT) at 36sec; 3, D Cook (Middridge CRT) same time.

KNARESBOROUGH RT (Croft, North Yorkshire, 28 miles): 1, C Ash (Middridge CRT) 1:01:12; 2, T Randall (Cycling Today) at 2:12; 3, G Burn (VC Azzurri) at 2:32.

TOUR OF ARDS (Newtonards, Northern Ireland, 100km): 1, B Doherty (VC Glendale) 2:18:27; 2, T Evans (Clarke-Nissan), 3, P Geddis (Northern CC) all same time.

Time trials

PORTHOLE GRAND PRIX (Windermere, 25 miles): 1, G Butler (Team Men's Health) 58min 5sec; 2, A Catchlow (Team Chevin) 58:40, 3, S Cummings (Birkenhead North End CC) 1:00:04. **Team:** Kent Valley RC 3:12:02. **Women:** C Cook (Letchworth Velo) 1:08:40.

BRITISH UNIVERSITIES SA TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP (Beverley, East Yorkshire, 40km): 1, Cambridge (R English, D Alexander, S Lemanski, T Rayment) 56:16; 2, Loughborough 1:00:00; 3, Oxford 1:00:03.

ICKNIELD RC HILLY (Whipsnade, 29 miles): 1, S O'Brien (Icknield RC) 1:17:19; 2, C Bond (Kenton RC) 1:21:31; 3, R Moule (Bossard Wheelers) 1:22:34. **Team:** Icknield RC (two riders) 2:43:37

STOCKTON WHEELERS (Crathorne, North Yorkshire, 25 miles): 1, D Elliot (Zeus CRT) 56:00; 2, D Oliver (Middridge CRT) 57:38; 3, D McCready (CCS Racing) 57:51

PORT SUNLIGHT WHEELERS (Broxton, near Chester, 25 miles): 1, A Wilkinson (Port Sunlight Wheelers) 57:43; 2, P Holt (Wrexham RC) 58:40; 3, P Whittall (Chester RC) 59:35.

ELY AND DISTRICT CC (25 miles): Equal 1, R De'ath and S Morrison (both CC Breckland) 58.17; 3, D Staff (North Road CC) 58:58. **Team:** CC Breckland 3:02:55.

EQUESTRIANISM

'S HERTOGENBOSCH: World Cup qualifier: 1, Loro Piana Esprit (L Nieberg, Ger), 0 penalties in 30.69sec; 2, Finesse (E Hendrix, Ned), 0 in 31.60; 3, Cruising (T Coyle, Ire), 3 in 46.12; 4, Trendata Carnavelly (P Charles, Ire), 4 in 31.78. **British placings:** 5 equal, Virtual Village Heyman (J Whitaker), 4; 16 equal, Virtual Village It's Otto (G Billington), 8. **World Cup rankings:** 1, B Mandli (Switz), 88; 2, J Tops (Ned), 66; 3, L Beerbaum (Germany), 65. **British placings:** 6, J Whitaker, 61; 7 equal, M Whitaker, 43; 15, G Billington, 34. **Dressage World Cup qualifier: Saturday:** 1, Gestion Bonfire (A van Grunsven, Ned), 82.22; 2, Souvereen (U Wirths, Ger), 75.66; 3, Yakumo's Goliath (A Teeuwissen, Ned), 73.43; 4, Hiscox Askari (R Davison, GB), 73.08. **Dressage World Cup rankings:** 1, I Werth (Ger), 88; 2, J Wirths (Ger), 81; 3 equal, A Simons de Ridder (Ger) and R Davison (GB), 61; 5, A van Grunsven (Ned), 60.

GOLF

ORLANDO, Florida: Bay Hill Invitational: Leaders after three rounds: (United States unless stated) **202:** T Herron 66, 69, 67; D Love 69, 66, 67. **203:** T Lehman 69, 68, 66. **206:** B Chamblee 70, 69, 67. **208:** B Estes 70, 70, 68, P Stewart 75, 65, 68; J Williamson 69, 69, 70. **209:** R Allenby (Aus) 72, 66, 71; R Damron 70, 71, 68; S Jones 71, 71, 67; J Leonard 69, 71, 69; R Mediate 73, 67, 69; P Mickelson 74, 67, 68; S Pate 69, 69, 71; D Pride 68, 71, 70; V Singh (Fiji) 69, 70, 70. **210:** J P Hayes 70, 70, 70; J Sindelar 71, 67, 72; D Toms 71, 71, 68. **Other scores:** 211: C Parry (Aus) 72, 67, 72. **212:** F Allem (SA) 70, 68, 74; C Montgomerie (GB) 71, 69, 72; L Westwood (GB) 71, 68, 73. **214:** E Els (SA) 74, 67, 73; J Ozaki (Japan) 74, 68, 72. **215:** F Nobilo (Nz) 70, 73, 72; G Waite (NZ) 72, 73, 70. **216:** B Langer (Ger) 74, 69, 73. **218:** D Frost (SA) 75, 68, 75. **222:** T Dodds (Nam) 72, 74, 76

ST. AUGUSTINE: Liberty Mutual Legends: Leaders after two rounds (United States unless stated): **128:** G Morgan and H Green 61, 67. **131:** D Graham and J Sigel 62, 69. **132:** G Archer and S Hobday 65, 67. **133:** T Jacklin and L Ziegler 66, 67, J Mahaffey and T Wargo 63, 70. **134:** B Baird and H Blancas 68, 66. D January and G Littler 67, 67. B Allin and J Heard 67, 67. J Bland and G Marsh 66, 68; A Geiberger and T Shaw 65, 69; O Moody and J Powell 65, 69. **135:** J Dent and C Peete 69, 66. G Gilbert and J C Snead 68, 67; M Hill and L Trevino 67, 68. **136:** H Henning and C Rodriguez 69, 67, C Coody and D Douglass 68, 68, J Albus and L Laoretti 68, 68, T Aaron and D Eies 67, 69. **137:** B Devlin and D Massengale 68, 69; D Hill and B Nichols 67, 70

PHOENIX, Arizona: LPGA Standard Register PING: Leaders after three rounds (United States unless stated). **205:** K Webb (Aus) 68, 68, 69. **207:** L Kane (Can) 66, 70, 71. **209:** W Ward 70, 71, 68, T Barrett 69, 70, 70. **210:** K Albers 71, 73, 66. **211:** M Nause 68, 73, 70. **212:** P Rizzo 73, 70, 69; A Sorenstam (Swe) 72, 69, 71, L Davies (GB) 68, 72, 72; K Saiki 70, 70, 72; H Alfredsson (Swe) 69, 69, 74. **213:** C Johnston-Forbes 67, 76, 70; J Inkster 68, 75, 70, C Matthew (GB) 74, 69, 70. L Lindley 72, 69, 72. **Other score: 215:** J Moodie (GB) 73, 73, 69.

HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Beeston 6 East Grinstead 1, Bournville 0 Cannock 1; Brooklands 1 Canterbury 2; Guildford 2 Reading 3. Hounslow 1 Old Loughtonians 1; Teddington 3 Southgate 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Cannock	20	16	3	1	79	28	51	51
Southgate	20	14	1	5	57	47	10	43
Reading	20	12	4	4	66	41	25	40
Canterbury	20	12	3	5	76	53	23	39
Beeston	20	10	4	6	53	41	12	34
Teddington	20	10	3	7	61	44	17	33
Guildford	20	9	2	9	64	77	-13	29
O L'tonians	20	8	2	10	63	69	-6	26
Bournville	20	5	5	10	41	60	-19	20
Hounslow	20	3	5	12	36	59	-23	14
E Grinstead	20	2	2	16	48	81	-33	8
Brooklands	20	1	2	17	33	77	-44	5

DEBENHAM THORPE LEAGUE: Midland Premier division: Coventry and North Warwicks 4 Khalsa 2; Harborne 5 Hampton in Arden 1. Loek 1 Nottingham 1; North Notts 5 Olton & West Warwicks 5. North Stafford 0 Northampton Saints 8; Shrewsbury 2 Edgbaston 5

NORTHERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ben Rhydding 4 Neston 0. Formby 9 Warrington 0; Harrogate 1 Rotherham 1; Norton 3 Chester 2; Sheffield Bankers 2 Bowdon 2

WOMEN'S REGIONAL LEAGUES: East: BSE 1 Blueharts 1; Dereham 4 Letchworth 0, Harleston 6 Ashford 0; Ipswich 1 Sevenoaks 1. Standings: 1 Harleston 39, 2 Sevenoaks 28. 3 Ipswich 26. **Midlands:** Bedford 5 Belper 3; N Stalts 4 Kettering 5, Olton 3 Lough Students 0. Final standings: 1, Bedford 34pts; 2, Kettering 29, 3, Loughboro 27. **South:** City of Ports 1 Horsham 2; Dulwich 2 Hendon 0; Maidenhead 0 Tulse Hill 1; W Witney 1 Southampton 3; Winchester 4 Reading 3. **Standings:** 1 Dulwich 50 (Champions), 2 Rover Cowley 45; 3 Tulse Hill 41. **West:** Exeter 0 Cheltenham 1; Exmouth 2 Bournemouth 2; Leominster 5 Portishead 2; Redland 2 St Austell 3; T Vale 1 Colwall 1. **Standings:** 1, Exmouth 38pts; 2, Colwall 38; 3, Bournemouth 30.

ICE HOCKEY

SEKONDA SUPERLEAGUE CHALLENGE CUP FINAL: Nottingham Panthers 0 Sheffield Steelers 4

SEKONDA SUPERLEAGUE: Play-offs: Group A: London Knights 0 Manchester Storm 3

	P	W	L	D	OL	F	A	Pts
*Manchester	4	3	1	0	0	12	5	6
Sheffield	3	2	1	0	0	14	9	4
*Bracknell	2	2	0	0	0	8	5	4
London	5	0	4	0	1	6	21	1
Group B								
Nottingham	3	3	0	0	0	10	6	6
*Cardiff	2	2	0	0	0	8	4	4
*Ayr	3	1	2	0	0	11	12	2
Newcastle	4	0	2	0	2	8	15	2

*Does not include last night's games

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Friday: Tampa Bay 3 Detroit 5. New York Rangers 2 Buffalo 3 (OT). Dallas 1 Ottawa 2. Vancouver 1 New York Islanders 3. **Saturday:** Boston 2 San Jose 2. Pittsburgh 1 Nashville 1: Colorado 5 Chicago 5, Montreal 0 Washington 1: Toronto 3 New Jersey 1. St Louis 2 Ottawa 3. Edmonton 4 Vancouver 3. Los Angeles 4 Florida 3

Eastern Conference

Atlantic division	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
New Jersey	38	22	8	84	201	169
Pittsburgh	35	22	11	81	208	180
Philadelphia	30	22	17	77	200	167
NY Rangers	29	31	9	67	191	191
NY Islanders	20	41	9	49	161	207
Northeast division						
Ottawa	40	20	9	89	203	145
Toronto	38	25	5	81	216	196
Buffalo	32	23	13	77	180	152
Boston	30	27	11	71	177	158
Montreal	28	32	9	65	163	178
Southeast division						
Carolina	30	25	14	74	179	170
Florida	25	26	17	67	173	180
Washington	29	34	6	64	178	180
Tampa Bay	16	47	5	37	145	246

Western Conference

Central division	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Detroit	34	29	6	74	204	177
St Louis	29	29	11	69	197	183
Nashville	24	39	7	55	168	225
Chicago	20	39	10	50	160	216
Northwest division						
Colorado	35	25	9	79	194	174
Calgary	26	32	10	62	183	193
Edmonton	26	33	10	62	192	191
Vancouver	20	39	11	51	167	216
Pacific division						
*Dallas	42	14	12	96	197	136
Phoenix	33	24	12	78	171	166
Anaheim	31	27	11	73	182	167
San Jose	26	28	15	67	156	160
Los Angeles	27	37	5	59	162	182

*Denotes tied play-off place

MOTOR RALLYING

PORTO: Rally of Portugal: First stage (3.2km): 1, C McRae (GB, Ford Focus) 3min 12.3sec; 2, M Gronholm (Fin, Mitsubishi) at 0.4sec; 3, C Sainz (Sp, Toyota) at 0.9; 4, D Auriol (Fr, Toyota) 2.0; 5, T Makinen (Fin, Mitsubishi) 2.1; 6, J Kankkunen (Fin, Subaru Impreza) 2.6; 7, A Schwarz (Ger, Skoda Octavia) 3.2; 8, M Martin (Est, Ford Escort) 3.6; 9, P Liatti (It, SEAT) 3.9; 10, H Rovenpera (Fin, SEAT) and Pasi Hagstrom (Fin, Toyota Corolla) both 4.3

ROWING

KINGSTON HEAD: Eights: 1, London A 11min 15sec (Open winners), 2, Leander A 11.23; 3, London University A 11.25. **Other division winners: Senior 1:** London C 11.53. **Senior 2:** Molesey A 12.12. **Senior 3:** Oxford Lightweights 12.21. **Senior 4:** University of East Anglia A 12.50. **Novice:** Exeter University 13.10. **School:** St Paul's 11.54. **College:** St Catherine's 12.31. **Junior 16:** Canford B 12.40. **Junior 15:** Canford C 13.05. **Women's Senior 2:** Walbrook/Royal Canoe 13.54. **Women's Senior 3:** Kingston Grammer 13.50. **Women's Novice:** University of Wales 14.20. **Coxed Fours: Senior 2:** Exeter University B 13.18. **Senior 3:** Pembroke College 13.55. **Junior:** Oratory School 14.18. **Women's Senior 3:** Kingston University 15.03. **Quads: Open:** Tiffin A 12.28. **Junior:** Tiffin B 13.03. **Junior 16:** Tiffin C 13.36. **Women's Senior 1:** Weybridge Ladies 14.40. **North of England Eights Head** (Chester). 1, Durham University 15.41 (Senior 1 winner); 2, Royal Chester 15.47 (Open winner); 3, Newcastle University 16.11 (Senior 2 winner). **Other division winners: Men:** Senior 3: York University 16.56. Senior 4. Durham University 16.21. **Novice:** UMIST 16.53. Women: Senior 1. Grosvenor 19.32. Senior 2: Agecroft 19.45. **Senior 3:** Liverpool/John Moore's 20.06.

SAILING

CLIPPER ROUND-THE-WORLD RACE: leg 3c (Shanghai to Hong Kong): **Final positions:** 1, Ariel (A Thomson), 2, Taeping (N Fleming), 3, Chrysolite (T Hedges), 4, Antelope (K Harris), 5, Senca (R Dean) 6, Mermerus (B Sollers)

TENNIS

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida: Lipton Championships: Men: Second round: V Spadea (US) bt Y Kafelnikov (Russ) 6-7, 7-6, 6-2. T Henman (GB) bt C Mamit (US) 3-6, 6-3, 6-2. A Correjta (Sp) bt M Damm (Cz) 6-2, 6-2; S Grosjean (Fr) bt G Kuerten (Bra) 6-3, 7-6, J Bjorkman (Swe) bt A Medvedev (Ukr) 1-6, 6-1, 6-2, J Stoltenberg (Aus) bt W Black (Zim) 6-4, 1-6, 7-6. R Delgado (Par) bt B Ulihrach (Cz) 2-6, 6-1, 6-2. A Costa (Sp) bt S Dosedel (Cz) 2-6, 6-3, 6-4. J Kroslak (Slovakia) bt T Johansson (Swe) 7-6, 2-6, 6-3. D Hrbaty (Slovakia) bt A Agassi (US) 1-6, 6-3, 6-2; C Moya (Sp) bt D Sanguinetti (It) 6-3, 4-6, 6-1. K Kucera (Slovakia) bt P Haarhuis (Ned) 6-2, 6-2; J Antonio Marin (Caracas) bt A Berasategui (Sp) 2-1 ret; P Sampras (US) bt J Courier (US) 6-3, 7-6, A Pavel (Rom) bt M Rosset (Switz) 6-4, 4-6, 7-6. N Lapentti (Ecu) bt T Haas (Ger) 5-7, 7-6, 6-2; M Rios (Chile) bt S Draper (Aus) 7-6, 6-3, M Philippoussis (Aus) bt L Hewitt (Aus) 6-3, 6-4, B Black (Zim) bt N Escude (Fr) 6-4, 6-3, M Safin (Russ) bt B Becker (Ger) 7-5, 6-0. **Women: Second round:** M Hingis (Switz) bt K Habsudova (Slovakia) 6-1, 6-4. H Nagyova (Slovakia) bt S Plischke (Austria) 4-6, 6-3, 7-6, J Halard-Decugis (Fr) bt M Middleton (US) 6-3, 6-0, A Coetzer (SA) bt E Tatarkova (Ukr) 6-2, 7-5, V Ruano-Pascual (Sp) bt R Grande (It) 6-4, 6-2, V Williams (US) bt T Snyder (US) 6-3, 6-4, A Kournikova (Russ) bt K Brandi (US) 6-7, 6-0, 6-2; J Novotna (Cz) bt A Smashnova (Isr) 6-0, 6-1; F Zuluaga (Col) bt I Majoli (Cro) 7-5, 7-5, N Tauziat (Fr) bt B Rittner (Ger) 6-2, ret. R Dragomir (Rom) bt I Spirlea (Rom) 6-0, 6-4; M Drake (Can) bt C Black (Zim) 6-1, 6-3; A Huber (Ger) bt T Panova (Russ) 4-6, 6-1, 6-1; A Kremer (Lux) bt A Sanchez Vicario (Sp) 1-6, 6-4, 6-1, L Davenport (US) bt S Appelmans (Bel) 6-0, 6-3; N Dechy (Fr) bt M Shaughnessy (US) 7-6, 3-6, 6-2, S Farina (It) bt M Oremans (Ned) 6-0, 6-3, A Frazier (US) bt M-J Fernandez (US) 6-2, 6-4. B Schett (Austria) bt M Saeki (Japan) 7-5, 6-7, 6-2; M Serna (Sp) bt M Ramon (Sp) 1-6, 7-5, 6-4, N Zvereva (Bela) bt A Glass (Ger) 6-4, 3-6, 6-0. M Pierce (Fr) bt L Osterloh (USA) 6-1 6-1; S Williams (US) bt A Molik (Aus) 6-2 6-3

SWANSEA: National Girobank Tour: Men: Final: N Gould (Avon) bt C Bennett (Hereford and Worcs) 7-6, 6-3. **Women: Final:** K Elliott (Herts) bt J Dawson (Sussex) 7-6, 6-4

ATHLETICS

Track and field

CRAWLEY: Open Meeting: Men: 80m: 1, [illegible] Ball (Crawley) 9.7sec. **150m:** 1, A Gordon (Worthing) 16.8. **300m:** 1, Gordon 34.8. **600m:** 1, J Hamblin (Walton) 1min 23.5sec. **1,000m:** 1, V Maughn (Herne Hill) 2:45.2. **3,000m:** 1, K Hoyte (Phoenix) 8:45.9. **300m hurdles:** 1, D Moles (Walton) 42.0. **High Jump:** 1, T Vanhinsbergh (Crawley) 1.85m. **Pole Vault:** 1, S Tolson (Blackheath) 3.70m. **Long Jump:** 1, J Birks (Worthing) 6.43m. **Shot:** 1, P Edwards (Walton) 17.48m (UK veterans record). **Discus:** 1, M Small (Belgrave) 40.78m. **Hammer:** 1, G Holder (Shaftesbury Barnet) 57.14m. **Women: 80m:** 1, J Le Gayt (Sutton) 19.5. **150m:** 1, E Williams (Walton) 18.9. **300m:** 1, Williams 40.3. **1,000m:** 1, C May (Guildford & Godalming) 2:56.1. **3,000m:** 1, F Clark (Crawley) 10:35.0. **300m hurdles:** 1, S Male (Aldershot, Farnham and District) 46.6. **Pole Vault:** 1, V Nortey (Puma TVH) 2m. **Long Jump:** 1, E Brooks (Phoenix) 5.13m. **Shot:** 1, J Bennett (Epsom and Ewell) 11.28m. **Discus:** S Nash (Medway) 33.64m. **Hammer:** 1, P Blank (Verlea) 42.73m. **Javelin:** 1, M Kemp (Sutton) 40.90m.

CROSS COUNTRY

BUNDORAN: Home Countries Schools Cross Country International: Intermediate Boys (6km) 1, M Farah (Eng) 18min 28sec; 2, L Evans (England) 19:31; 3, C Poole (Scot) 19:52. **Teams:** 1, England 36pts, 2, Scotland 89; 3, Ireland 97. **Intermediate Girls (3.6km):** 1, L Damen (Eng) 13:17, 2, J Nugent (Eng) 13:18; 3, Z Jelbert (Eng) 13:19. **Teams:** 1, England 21; 2, Ireland 85; 3, Scotland 93. **Junior Boys (4.5km):** 1, S Hall (Eng) 15:10; 2, S Burns (Ire) 15:14; 3, S Enright (Eng) 15:16. **Teams:** 1, England 34; 2, Scotland 78; 3, Wales 97. **Junior Girls (3.2km):** 1, C Birch (Eng) 12:08; 2, K Wooton (Eng) 12:16; 3, C Wickham (Eng) 12:17. **Teams:** 1, England 24; 2, Scotland 76; 3, Wales 107. **Overall Teams:** 1, England 105; 2, Scotland 316; 3, Ireland 427; 4, Wales 460.

CHINGFORD: Orion Open 15 miles: Men: 1, M Bateson (Harrow) 1hr 31min 51sec; 2, K Murphy (Woodford Green) 1:33:27; 3, A Mitchell (Muswell Hill Runners) 1:34:27. **Veteran:** C Sniff (Harrow) 1:39:03. **Over-50:** S Herington (Woodford Green) 1:47.41. **Team:** 1, Trent Park Trotters. **Women:** 1, V Parry (Muswell Hill Runners) 1:54:13; 2, V Shadbolt (Garden City Joggers) 1:57:01; 3, G Briscoll (Dunstable Road Runners) 2:00:20. **Team:** 1, Muswell Hill Runners.

CARMARTHEN: Gwent League: Men (9km): 1, S Tobin (Swansea) 26min 37sec; 2, S Moseley (Swansea) 26:57; 3, D Wilson-Evans (City of Plymouth) 27:06. **Team:** 1, Les Croupiers. **Women** (6.5km): 1, F Gill (Neath) 21:42. **Team:** 1, Les Croupiers 380. **Final Leading standings:** 1, Cardiff 2500; 2, Les Croupiers 2384; 3, Great Western Runners 2056

GRAVES PARK, Sheffield: Post Office National Championships: Men (9.5km): 1, P Green (North West and North Wales) 24min 2sec; 2, S Fenwick (Midlands) 24:21; 3, A Peace (North East) 24:30. **Teams:** 1, Midlands 31pts. **Women** (4.2km): 1, B Jenkins (North West and North Wales) 17:30, 2, S Griffiths (North East) 18:11; 3, K Musson (North West & North Wales) 18:29. **Teams:** 1, North East 25, 2, Midlands 26; 3, North West and North Wales 26.

WIMBLEDON COMMON: Veterans (4.8 miles): 1, M Watling (Blackheath) 25min 47sec, 2, H Morten (Blackheath) 26:27; 3, G Tuck (Hercules Wimbledon) 26:34. **Over-60:** 1, K Spacie (Thames Hare & Hounds) 30:30. **Over-70:** 1, D Adie (Dulwich Runners) 35:07. **Women:** 1, J Davies (Epsom and Ewell) 31:39; 2, R Tabor (Dulwich Runners) 34:22; 3, J Quantrill (South London Harriers) 35:45.

Road Running

ROME MARATHON: Men: 1, P Tanui (Ken) 2 hr 9min 58sec; 2, D Kapitanov (Russ) 2:10:10; 3, P Chirchir (Ken) 2:10:15; 4, R Barbi (It) 2:10:46; 5, O De Souza (Br) 2:10:49; 6, W Koech (Ken) 2:11:09. **Women:** 1, M Viceconte (It) 2hr 29min 36sec; 2, J Salumae (Est) 2:30:40; 3, L Edato (Eth) 2:32:36; 4, K Szymanska (Pol) 2:34:46; 5, N Galushko (Bela) 2:35:16; 6, G Kamatevicz (Bela) 2:35:59

DORKING: East Surrey League Road Relay 4 x 2.1 miles: 1, Boxhill Racers 41min 34sec; 2, Croydon 42:38; 3, Boxhill Racers B 43:31.

CARLISLE: Stephen Unwin Memorial 10km: 1, B Hussain (Stockport) 31min 44sec; 2, R Hand (Durham City) 31:50; 3, C Thomson (Cambuslang) 31:54. **Team:** Border 44pts. **Veteran:** I Hagen (Sunderland) 32:11. **Over-45:** R Fletcher (Durham City) 35:39. **Over-50:** R Johnston (Border) 36:04. **Over-55:** P Cunnell (Border) 42:57. **Over-60:** D Hayes (Keswick) 38:01. **Over-65:** J Pitillo (Teviotdale) 45:25. **Women:** 1, C Thompson (City of Glasgow) 36:25; 2, J Nayson (Stockport) 37:15, 3, K Cornwall (Chester-le-Street) 38:29. **Team:** Annan 196. **Veteran:** L Hooper (Annan) 42:58. **Over-40:** M Oliver (Tynedale) 41:10. **Over-45:** M Blandon (Chester-le-Street) 42:21.

SWINDON: Swindon Harriers road relays: Men (4x3.1 miles): 1, City of Portsmouth 1hr 0min 33sec; 2, Bristol 1:01:57; 3, Basingstoke & Mid Hants 1:03:19. **Women** (3x3.1 miles): 1, Bristol 54:32, 2, Clevedon 1:01:54; 3, Swindon Harriers 1:04:34.

SOUTH SHIELDS: Dolly Peel (10km): 1, T Wall (Morpeth) 30min 59sec; 2, J Laws (Sunderland) 32:39; 3, D Robertson (Sunderland) 32:42. **Team:** 1, South Shields 18pts. **Women:** 1, S Allen (Houghton & Peterlee) 38:01, 2, M McDonnell (Saltwell) 39:32; 3, C Bowman (Chester-le-Street) 40:28. **Team:** 1, Elswick 48

GATESHEAD: Winter League Series 5km: Men: T. 1, I Haggen (Sunderland) 15min 34sec; 2, P Morgan (South Shields) 15.45, 3, M McNally (Elswick) 17.07. **Women:** A Brown (Heaton) 21:42.

Oxford University were made to work hard before beating a Queen's Tower crew containing seven Great Britain internationals in their build-up to the Boat Race on the Tideway on Saturday. Photograph: Ben Gurr

RUGBY LEAGUE

JJB Super League

Sheffield 20 London 26

Sheffield Eagles: Tries: Pearson 2, Shaw. **Goals:** Aston 4. **London Broncos: Tries:** Fleming 2, Offiah, Peters. **Goals:** Warton 5. **Att:** 3,269

Huddersfield 14 Halifax 17

Huddersfield Giants: Tries: Cheetham 2, Bentley. **Goal:** Goulding. **Halifax Blue Sox: Tries:** Gibson, Holroyd. **Goals:** Holroyd 4. **Dropped goal:** Holroyd. **Att:** 4,667

Hull 3 Bradford 8

Hull Sharks: Goal: Prescott. **Dropped goal:** Prescott. **Bradford Bulls: Try:** McAvoy. **Goals:** McNamara 2. **Att:** 6,577.

Wakefield 22 Salford 10

Wakefield Trinity: Tries: D March 2, Poching, Stott. **Goals:** G Law 3. **Salford Reds: Tries:** Carige, Casey. **Goal:** Casey. **Att:** 4,004.

Warrington 19 Castleford 14

Warrington Wolves: Tries: Kohe-Love 2, Briers, Knott. **Goal:** Briers. **Dropped goal:** Briers. **Castleford Tigers: Tries:** Davis, Eagar, Gay. **Goal:** Orr. **Att:** 4,738

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wigan	2	2	0	0	84	18	4
Bradford	2	2	0	0	26	9	4
London	2	2	0	0	50	38	4
Warrington	2	2	0	0	35	28	4
St Helens	1	1	0	0	30	12	2
Wakefield	2	1	0	1	32	22	2
Halifax	2	1	0	1	31	30	2
Castleford	2	1	0	1	26	29	2
Leeds	2	1	0	1	36	40	2
Huddersfield	2	0	0	2	32	41	0
Gateshead	1	0	0	1	14	24	0
Sheffield	2	0	0	2	26	44	0
Salford	2	0	0	2	22	52	0
Hull	2	0	0	2	9	66	0

Northern Ford Premiership

Batley 14 Bramley 12

Batley Bulldogs: Tries: Bargate, Price. **Goals:** Price 3. **Bramley: Tries:** Gibson, Homer. **Goals:** A Gibbons 2. **Att:** 566.

Hull K R 12 Doncaster 2

Hull Kingston Rovers: Tries: Bibby, Danby. **Goals:** Charles 2. **Doncaster Dragons: Goal:** Creasser. **Att:** 2,056

Hunslet 44 Oldham 2

Hunslet Hawks: Tries: Pienge 4, R Wilson 2, Fatnowna, Tawhai. **Goals:** Fletcher 6. **Oldham: Goal:** Quinlan. **Att:** 1,533

Keighley 30 Whitehaven 16

Keighley Cougars: Tries: Wood 2, Foster, Lee, Ramshaw. **Goals:** Wood 5. **Whitehaven Warriors: Tries:** Walsh 2. Lewthwaite. **Goals:** Hetherington 2. **Att:** 1,616.

Leigh 16 Featherstone 12

Leigh Centurions: Tries: Fairclough, Hadcroft, Ingram. **Goals:** D Purtill 2. **Featherstone Rovers: Tries:** Simonds, Stokes. **Goals:** Chapman 2. **Att:** 1,603

Rochdale 22 Lancashire Lynx 27

Rochdale Hornets: Tries: Cameron, Coult, Fitzgerald, Hilton. **Goals:** Fox 3. **Lancashire Lynx: Tries:** Abram, Gildart, P Jones, Parsley. **Goals:** P Jones 5. **Dropped goal:** P Jones. **Att:** 714.

Swinton 19 Dewsbury 29

Swinton Lions: Tries: Cleary, Henare, Hill. **Goals:** Watson 3. **Dropped goal:** Watson. **Dewsbury Rams: Tries:** Evans 2, Ball, Graham, B Williams. **Goals:** Eaton 4. **Dropped goal:** Eaton. **Att:** 1,040

Widnes 36 Barrow 16

Widnes Vikings: Tries: Cassidy 2, Devecchi, Mansson, Munro, Salisbury. **Goals:** Salisbury 6. **Barrow Braves: Tries:** Luxon, Whitehead. **Goals:** Holt 4. **Att:** 2,224

Workington 26 York 14

Workington Town: Tries: Armstrong, Arnold, Forber, Jenkins, Woodcock. **Goals:** Close 3. **York: Tries:** Benn, Edwards, Smi. **Goal:** Benn. **Att:** 904

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hull KR	5	4	1	0	75	44	9
Hunslet	5	4	0	1	141	52	8
Leigh	5	4	0	1	112	97	8
Batley	5	3	0	2	87	54	6
Dewsbury	5	3	0	2	119	95	6
York	5	3	0	2	84	71	6
Widnes	5	3	0	2	90	86	6
Lancashire L	5	3	0	2	80	102	6
Workington	5	2	1	2	90	121	5
Featherstone	4	2	0	2	82	70	4
Whitehaven	5	2	0	3	100	90	4
Keighley	5	2	0	3	100	91	4
Barrow	4	2	0	2	84	82	4
Doncaster	6	1	1	4	92	149	3
Oldham	4	1	1	2	34	102	3
Swinton	5	1	0	4	85	96	2
Bramley	5	1	0	4	62	84	2
Rochdale	5	1	0	4	84	115	2

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Leigh M R 22 Thornhill 24, Oldham St Annes 10 Heworth 10, Walney Central 12 Skirlaugh 20, West Hull 32 Askam 24, Wigan St Patricks 23 Saddleworth 22, Woolston 88 Beverley East Hull 0. **First division:** Barrow Island 38 Moldgreen 18, Dudley Hill 38 Wigan St Judes 6, Leigh East 30 Featherstone Lions 36, Milford 10 Siddal 46, Oulton 33 Millom 22, Redhill 26 Rochdale Mayfield 16, Shaw Cross 0 East Leeds 38. **Second division:** Eccles 56 Keighley Alb 0, Ideal Isberg 48 Crosfields 4, London Skolars 36 Dodworth 14, Normanton 45 New Earswick 22, York Acorn 16 Eastmoor 34

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL LEAGUE: Third round: Parramatta 0 Sydney City 11; Balmain 26 North Queensland 18, Cronulla 28 South Sydney 12, Canberra 14 St George Illawarra 16.

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Saturday: Derby Storm 76 Birmingham Bullets 82; Leicester Riders 70 Sheffield Sharks 82; Thames Valley Tigers 99 Edinburgh Rocks 62; Manchester Giants 64 London Towers 66; Newcastle Eagles 92 Chester Jets 83, Worthing Bears 94 Greater London Leopards 118.

	P	W	L	Pts
Sheffield Sharks	33	29	4	58
Manchester Giants	33	28	5	56
Thames Valley Tigers	31	21	10	42
Birmingham Bullets	33	20	13	40
London Towers	31	19	12	38
Newcastle Eagles	33	19	14	38
Derby Storm	31	18	13	36
London Leopards	31	16	15	32
Edinburgh Rocks	33	10	23	20
Milton Keynes Lions	33	10	23	20
Chester Jets	31	8	23	16
Leicester Riders	32	7	25	14
Worthing Bears	33	4	29	8

Does not include last night's matches

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NBL): Men: First division: Guildford 64 Mid Sussex 91; Oxford 95 Cardiff C 113. Solent 99 Plymouth 88; Solihull 72 Coventry 67; Stevenage 80 Westminster 85. **Second division:** Bournemouth 102 Portsmouth 91; Flintshire 59 Liverpool 79; Manchester 79 Taunton 80, Reading 99 Slough 61; Thames Valley 87 Northampton 113, Wandsworth 79 Swindon 61. **Third division:** NW London 90 Mansfield 80; Sutton 68 Ware 77. **Women: First division:** Doncaster 53 Rhondda 71, Leicester 81 Ipswich 100; NW London 61 Spelthorne 37, Sheffield 60 Birmingham 17; Thames Valley 52 Nottingham 44. **Second division:** Cardiff C 57 Plymouth 81

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Friday: Indiana 96 Chicago 87; Philadelphia 105 La Lakers 90, Toronto 93 La Clippers 82; Atlanta 93 Phoenix 85, Charlotte 83 Utah 82 (OT); Detroit 94 Dallas 87, Denver 101 Minnesota 105, Portland 90 San Antonio 85, Golden State 90 Seattle 78. **Saturday:** New York 96 Boston 78; Washington 113 Cleveland 83; Atlanta 77 Milwaukee 83; Miami 89 Indiana 94; Dallas 104 Sacramento 90; Houston 103 Phoenix 93 (OT); Vancouver 88 San Antonio 92 (OT)

Eastern Conference

Atlantic division	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	18	6	.750	—
Orlando	18	7	.720	½
Philadelphia	14	9	.609	3½
New York	15	10	.600	3½
Washington	10	14	.417	8
Boston	8	14	.364	9
New Jersey	4	19	.174	13½
Central division				
Indiana	17	7	.708	—
Milwaukee	14	9	.609	2½
Atlanta	14	11	.560	3½
Detroit	13	11	.542	4
Cleveland	11	11	.500	5
Toronto	10	12	.455	6
Charlotte	8	14	.364	8
Chicago	7	17	.292	10

Western Conference

Midwest division	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	19	5	.792	—
San Antonio	16	9	.640	3½
Houston	16	9	.640	3½
Minnesota	14	11	.560	5½
Dallas	9	17	.346	11
Denver	6	18	.250	13
Vancouver	5	20	.200	14½
Pacific division				
Portland	19	5	.792	—
LA Lakers	17	9	.654	3
Seattle	12	10	.545	6
Phoenix	12	13	.480	7½
Sacramento	11	15	.423	9
Golden State	10	14	.417	9
LA Clippers	1	22	.043	17½

RUGBY UNION

Lloyds TSB Five Nations Championship

England 21 France 10

England: Pens: Wilkinson 7. **France: Try:** Comba. **Con:** Castaignede. **Pen:** Castaignede. **HT:** 9-0.

(Played at Twickenham)

Scotland 30 Ireland 13

Scotland: Tries: C Murray 2, Grimes, Townsend. **Cons:** Logan 2. **Pens:** Logan 2. **Ireland: Try:** Humphreys. **Con:** Humphreys. **Pens:** Humphreys 2. **HT:** 15-10. **Att:** 67,500.

(Played at Murrayfield)

International Match

Italy 21 Wales 60

Italy: Tries: Martin, Saviozzi. **Con:** Dominguez. **Pens:** Dominguez 3. **Wales: Tries:** G Thomas 4, Howley, N Jenkins, C Quinnell. **Cons:** N Jenkins 5. **Pens:** N Jenkins 5. **HT:** 16-18.

(Played at Treviso)

Allied Dunbar Premiership

Second division

Rugby 13 Exeter 9

Rugby: Tries: Milner, Vaega. **Pen:** M Davies. **Exeter: Pens:** B Easson 3. **HT:** 3-3. **Att:** 400

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bristol	20	16	0	4	630	319	32
Worcester	20	17	0	3	562	288	32
Rotherham	20	16	0	4	539	256	32
London Welsh	20	13	0	7	492	447	26
Exeter	20	11	1	8	417	436	23
Leeds	20	11	0	9	479	263	22
Waterloo	20	11	0	9	336	416	22
Coventry	20	10	0	10	490	436	20
Rugby	20	9	0	11	320	397	18
Orrell	20	8	0	12	379	349	16
Moseley	20	7	0	13	390	465	14
Wakefield	20	5	0	15	359	577	10
Fylde	20	3	1	16	238	621	7
Blackheath	20	2	0	18	264	638	4

Cheltenham and Gloucester Cup Semi-finals

Bedford 27 Newcastle 27

Bedford: Tries: Forster 2, Davies, Whetstone. **Cons:** Yapp 2. **Pen:** Yapp. **Newcastle: Tries:** May, J Naylor, Wood. **Cons:** Andrew 3. **Pens:** Andrew 2. **HT:** 15-10. **Att:** 2,489.

Gloucester 45 Sale 37

Gloucester: Tries: Eustace, Forley, Harris, Kimber, penalty try, R Ward. **Cons:** Kimber 3. **Pens:** Kimber 3. **Sale: Tries:** P Sanderson 2, Yates 2, penalty try. **Cons:** J Shaw 3. **Pens:** J Shaw 2. **HT:** 8-20. **Att:** 2,881.

Jewson National League

First division

Lydney 0 Henley 7

Henley: Try: Hendrikz. **Con:** Roke. **HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 550.

Welsh League

Premier division

Postponed: Caerphilly v Newport

First division

Blackwood 13 Pontypool 15

Blackwood: Try: J Simms. **Con:** Brown. **Pens:** Brown 2. **Pontypool: Tries:** Silva 2. **Con:** Silva. **Pen:** Silva. **HT:** 8-8

Tredegar 52 Maesteg 11

Tredegar: Tries: Young 3, penalty try 2, Forrester, Hopkins. **Cons:** M Jones 7. **Pen:** M Jones. **Maesteg: Try:** L Jones. **Pens:** R Davies 2. **HT:** 17-11

(Played at Ebbw Vale)

Merthyr 18 Cross Keys 21

Merthyr: Tries: Morgan, Price, Sidoli. **Pen:** Bryant. **Cross Keys: Tries:** Bebb, L Gardiner, Walsh. **Cons:** Bebb 3. **HT:** 13-0.

Newbridge 23 Bonymaen 8

Newbridge: Tries: Bisp, Lucas. **Cons:** Williams 2. **Pens:** Williams 3. **Bonymaen: Try:** Hawkins. **Pen:** S Davies. **HT:** 16-3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	T	B	Pts
Dunvant	22	18	1	3	819	319	122	21	76
Bonymaen	22	15	2	5	520	282	72	13	60
Pontypool	22	17	0	5	548	356	71	8	59
Cross Keys	22	15	1	6	512	368	59	5	51
Merthyr	24	13	2	9	475	473	64	6	47
Treorchy	20	11	2	7	524	347	72	9	44
Rumney	21	11	1	9	391	465	58	8	42
Llandovery	22	11	2	9	521	492	70	5	40
Abertillery	23	10	2	11	414	453	49	7	39
Newbridge	24	10	0	14	480	464	53	5	35
Tredegar	21	9	1	11	442	419	54	5	33
Tondu	23	9	1	13	364	501	47	4	32
Blackwood	20	5	1	14	337	432	52	6	22
SW Police	22	5	1	16	330	626	46	0	16
UWIC	18	4	1	13	332	497	43	3	16
Maesteg	20	1	0	19	220	735	24	1	4

Tennent's Velvet Premiership

First division

Boroughmuir 22 Currie 17

Boroughmuir: Tries: Calvin Howarth 2, M Murray. **Cons:** Calvin Howarth 2. **Pen:** Calvin Howarth. **Currie: Tries:** Clark 2, Wall. **Con:** Barrett. **Att:** 325.

Stirling County 19 W of Scotland 24

Stirling County: Tries: Barr, Lewis. **Pens:** Maller 3. **West of Scotland: Tries:** N Craig, Henderson, Williamson. **Cons:** Curtis 3. **Pen:** Curtis. **HT:** 10-24.

Postponed: Watsonians v Hawick

	P	W	D	L	F	A	B	Pts
Heriots FP	17	13	0	4	545	297	12	64
Melrose	17	12	0	5	470	290	11	59
Glasgow H	17	12	1	4	415	257	7	57
Currie	16	11	0	5	389	293	7	51
Hawick	16	9	0	7	315	386	5	41
Jed-Forest	17	7	2	8	346	428	3	35
Watsonians	16	6	2	8	339	393	5	33
Boroughmuir	17	5	0	12	344	431	9	29
W Scotland	16	5	0	11	310	386	8	28
Stirling C	17	0	1	16	275	587	5	7

Second division

Kilmarnock 28 Dundee HSFP 61

Kilmarnock: Tries: Mawhinney, Muirhead, N Tweedie. **Cons:** Stewart 2. **Pens:** Stewart 3. **Dundee HSFP: Tries:** S Judkins 4, C Milne, Pearson, J Petrie, Robertson, Romanowski. **Cons:** J Newton 8. **HT:** 13-26.

Aberdeen GSFP 10 Selkirk 15

Aberdeen GSFP: Try: penalty try. **Con:** Oddy. **Pen:** Oddy. **Selkirk: Pens:** Blair 5. **HT:** 10-6

Third division

Gordonians 42 Stewarts Mel FP 24

Gordonians: Tries: Harrison 2, Crozier, Fletcher, Richards. **Cons:** K Williams 4. **Pens:** K Williams 3. **Stewarts Mel FP: Tries:** C Capaldi, Foster, Morley, Theed. **Cons:** Theed 2. **HT:** 28-0

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL: England Ladies 13 France Ladies 8, England Ladies A 31 Emerging England Lad 3

A INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: Friday: England 24 France 21, Italy 24 Wales 23, Scotland 31 Ireland 21

UNDER-21 INTERNATIONAL: England 26 France 30, Italy 19 Wales 78, Scotland 13 Ireland 22

SUPER 12: Auckland: Auckland Blues 12 Queensland 12. **Johannesburg:** Golden Cats 28 Otago Highlanders 29. **Sydney:** New South Wales 39 Northern Bulls 23

SCHOOLS SPORT

FOOTBALL: Individual Schools Trophy: Under-16 quarter-final: Torpoint (Cornwall) 2 Evesham (Worcestershire) 0. **Heinz Ketchup Trophy: Semi-final:** South Notts 0 Reading 0 (aet). **Heinz Ketchup Cup:** Kingsdown (Swindon) 3 St Thomas, The Apostle (London) 2 (aet). Tottington (Bury) 0 Cardinal Heenan (Liverpool) 0 (aet). **Lancashire Cup: Quarter-final:** Blackburn 2 Rossendale 2 (aet, Blackburn win 11-10 on pens). **Merseyside Cup:** Liverpool 0 Chester 0. **MEN Trophy: Semi-final:** Stockport 2 Bury 1. **Northern Merit League:** Tameside 0 Bolton 6. West Midlands League: Wolverhampton 4 West Bromwich 0. **Levon Yates Trophy: Quarter-final:** Cannock 0 Wyre Forest 0 (aet; Cannock win 5-4 on pens). Goodhand Trophy: Grimsby 0 Derby 0, Hull 2 Mansfield 1. **Inter Association:** Nottingham 1 Sheffield 2, Carlisle 2 Newcastle 2; Blackpool 1 Manchester 3.

LACROSSE: Milton Keynes: National schoolgirls' championship finals: Final: Wycombe Abbey 3, Berkhamsted 2.

SWIMMING: Speedo International (at Cranny Pool, Galway). **Boys: Senior: Freestyle: 100m:** E Sinclair (Millfield School, Street, Eng) 52.11sec. **200m:** M Bree (Campbell College, Belfast) 2.05.40 (new record). **100m breaststroke:** S Seddon (Adwick School, Doncaster) 1min 04.07sec (New record). **Backstroke: 100m:** M Reidy (St Johns, Dublin) 57.52. **Butterfly: 100m:** D Bennett (Trinity School, Croydon) 55.03 (new record). **Medley relay: 4 x 50m:** England 1.45.91. **Freestyle relay: 4 x 50m:** England 1.3.84. **Intermediate: Freestyle: 100m:** D O'Brien (Rainhill H S Prescott) 52.78. **200m:** S Manley (St Conleths College, Dublin) 2.09.51. **Breaststroke: 100m:** P Lucas (St Benedict's RC H.S, Barrow-in-Furness) 1.06.94. **Backstroke: 100m:** N Oxford (Ashby G S, Leicester) 58.17. **Butterfly: 100m:** D Jones (Whitchurch H.S, Cardiff) 57.83 (new record). **Medley relay: 4 x 50m:** England 1.48.19 (new record). **Freestyle relay: 4 x 50m:** England 1.38.44. **Junior: Freestyle: 100m:** M Gartside (Compsmount School, Doncaster) 55.49. **200m:** B Ward (Exmouth CC) 2.16.01. **Breaststroke: 100m:** J King (The John of Gaunt School, Bath) 1.11.72. **Backstroke: 100m:** D Ward (Douglas Academy, East Dunbarton) 1.01.48. **Medley relay: 4 x 50m:** England 1.55.19. **Freestyle: 4 x 50m:** England 1.43.22. **Open: Freestyle: 400m:** A Faulkner (Bilborough College, Nottingham) 3.57.28. **Girls: Senior: Freestyle: 100m:** C Gibney (St Andrews College, Dublin) 59.96. **200m:** K Evans (Southwolds School, Nottingham) 2.20.58. **Breaststroke: 100m:** H Earp (Newcastle-Under-Lyme) 1.12.69. **Backstroke: 100m:** S Millward (The Corsham School, Bath) 1.05.05. **Butterfly: 100m:** S Flook (Millfield School, Street) 1.03.58. **Medley relay: 4 x 50m:** England 2.01.08. **Freestyle relay: 4 x 50m:** Ireland 1.47.97. **Intermediate: Freestyle: 100m:** B Bolton (Sale GS) 59.00. **200m:** L Chapman (Bedgebury School, Hastings) 2.20.29. **Breaststroke: 100m:** J Mullins (Tonbridge GS) 1.12.45. **Backstroke: 100m:** K Lee 1.03.75. **Butterfly: 100m:** L How (Penwortham Girls H S, Preston) 1.05.02. **Medley relay: 4 x 50m:** England 2.01.17. **Freestyle relay: 4 x 50m:** England 1.49.58. **Junior: Freestyle: 100m:** V Cooke (The Broxbourne School) 58.10. **200m:** G Howells (Porthcawl Comprehensive) 1.06.13. **Breaststroke: 100m:** C Evans (Homefield School, Bournemouth) 1.12.87. **Backstroke: 100m:** B Coole (Caerleon Comprehensive, Newport) 1.06.11. **Butterfly: 100m:** G Howells 1.06.13. **Medley relay: 4 x 50m:** England 2.03.66. **Freestyle relay: 4 x 50m:** England 1.51.60. **Open: Freestyle: 400m:** C Smart (Millfield School, Street) 4.15.04. **Final overall positions:** 1, England 165 pts; 2, Ireland 105; 3, Scotland 88; 4, Wales 82

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

Nationwide Conference

Hednesford v Cheltenham (7.45)

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Hyde v Frickley

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Southern division: Chelmsford v Fleet T.

RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Dagenham and Redbridge v Dulwich. **First division:** Hitchin v Whyteleafe

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Arsenal v Millwall (at Boreham Wood FC, 2.0), Chelsea v Reading (7.0); Northampton v Brentford (7.0)

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Blackburn v Derby (7.0), Stoke v Manchester Utd (7.0). **First division:** Wolverhampton v Grimsby (7.0). **Second division:** Lincoln v Shrewsbury (2.0), Sheffield Utd v Scarborough (2.0). **Third division:** Carlisle v Chesterfield (2.0). **League Cup: Semi-final:** Tranmere v Rotherham (7.15)

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Harry Fisher Memorial Trophy: Semi-final, first leg: Bowers v Ilford.

OTHER SPORT

HOCKEY: Boys' International tournament (at WIS, Cardiff). **Under-18:** Ireland v England (11.30); Wales v Scotland (3.30). **Under-16:** England v Ireland (9.30); Wales v Scotland (1.30)

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Barnsley v Bristol City (7.45); Port Vale v Grimsby (7.45). **Second division:** Bristol Rovers v Wycombe (7.45), Luton v Reading (7.45). **Third division:** Darlington v Carlisle (7.45); Scunthorpe v Swansea (7.30).

AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD: Northern section: Final, second leg: Wrexham (0) v Wigan (2) (7.45).

NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE: Hereford v Woking (7.45); Leek v Rushden and Diamonds (7.45); Yeovil v Southport (7.45)

RUGBY UNION

WELSH LEAGUE: Premier division: Pontypridd v Bridgend (7.15). **First division:** Cross Keys v Dunvant (7.0); Maesteg v South Wales Police (7.0); Tondu v UWIC (7.0). Tredegar v Pontypool (7.0); Treorchy v Blackwood (7.0).

OTHER SPORT

SNOOKER: Benson and Hedges Irish Masters (in Co Kildare).

SQUASH: British Open (in Birmingham).

WEDNESDAY

FOOTBALL

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Huddersfield v Norwich (7.45).

NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE: Forest Green v Kingstonian (7.45).

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division: Hamilton v Ayr (7.45); Clydebank v Greenock Morton (7.45).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Derby Storm v Worthing Bears (8.0); Newcastle Eagles v London Towers (7.0), Thames Valley Tigers v Manchester Giants (8.0).

RUGBY UNION

AIB LEAGUE: Second division: Dungannon v Malone (7.0).

RUGBY LEAGUE

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: West Hull v Beverley East Hull (7.30).

THURSDAY

RUGBY LEAGUE

NORTHERN FORD PREMIERSHIP: Rochdale v Keighley (7.30).

OTHER SPORT

ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda play-off championship: Group A: Bracknell Bees v Sheffield Steelers (7.30). **Group B:** Cardiff Devils v Nottingham Panthers (7.30).

FRIDAY

FOOTBALL

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Qualifying group seven: Portugal v Azerbaijan.

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: Qualifying group three: N Ireland v Germany. **Qualifying group five:** England v Poland (at The Dell, 7.45). **Qualifying group eight:** FYR Macedonia v Ireland.

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Sheffield Utd v Oxford Utd (7.45); Tranmere v Crewe (7.45). **Third division:** Exeter v Darlington (7.45); Halifax v Leyton Orient (7.45); Scarborough v Rochdale, Shrewsbury v Cambridge Utd (7.45); Southend v Hull (7.45).

NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE: Doncaster v Stevenage (7.45).

RUGBY LEAGUE

NORTHERN FORD PREMIERSHIP: Hull KR v Bramley (8.0).

SATURDAY

FOOTBALL

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Qualifying group one: Belarus v Switzerland (4.30); Denmark v Italy (8.15). **Qualifying group two:** Georgia v Slovenia (4.0), Greece v Norway (5.30). **Qualifying group three:** Northern Ireland v Germany (3.0); Turkey v Moldova (5.0). **Qualifying group four:** Andorra v Iceland (6.0); Armenia v Russia (4.0); France v Ukraine (7.45). **Qualifying group five:** England v Poland (3.0); Sweden v Luxembourg (2.0). **Qualifying group six:** Spain v Austria (8.45). **Qualifying group seven:** Hungary v Liechtenstein (6.30), Romania v Slovakia (6.30). **Qualifying group eight:** FYR Macedonia v Ireland (7.0), Yugoslavia v Croatia (7.0). **Qualifying group nine:** Czech Republic v Lithuania (3.30); Scotland v Bosnia-Herzegovina (at Ibrox, 3.0).

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: Qualifying group nine: Scotland v Bosnia-Herzegovina (at St Mirren, 12.0).

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Bury v Sunderland (3.0). **Second division:** Bournemouth v Colchester (12.0); Bristol Rovers v Notts County (3.0); Chesterfield v Blackpool (3.0), Luton v Gillingham (11.30); Millwall v Wrexham (12.0); Preston v Northampton (3.0), Reading v Manchester City (1.0); Walsall v Fulham (3.0), Wigan v Stoke (3.0), Wycombe v Oldham (1.0). **Third division:** Brighton v Barnet (3.0); Cardiff v Carlisle (3.0); Chester v Plymouth (3.0); Rotherham v Scunthorpe (12.30); Torquay v Hartlepool (12.0)

NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE: Barrow v Kidderminster (3.0), Dover v Morecambe (1.0); Kettering v Rushden and Diamonds (3.0); Telford v Farnborough (3.0); Woking v Hednesford (3.0); Yeovil v Hayes (3.0)

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP: First division: Bedford v Gloucester; Harlequins v Richmond; Leicester v Wasps; London Irish v London Scottish; Northampton v Newcastle. **Second division:** Blackheath v Orrell; Exeter v Wakefield; Fylde v Coventry; London Welsh v Bristol; Rugby v Rotherham; Waterloo v Moseley.

JEWSON NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Birmingham/Solihull v Lydney; Harrogate v Henley; Liverpool St Helens v Morley; Manchester v Nottingham, Reading v Newbury; Rosslyn Park v Otley; Wharfedale v Camberley. **Second division north:** Hinckley v Sandal; Kendal v Nuneaton, Lichfield v New Brighton; Sedgley Park v Stourbridge, Sheffield v Walsall, Whitchurch v Preston Grasshoppers; Winnington Park v Aspatria. **Second division south:** Bracknell v North Walsham; Cheltenham v Plymouth; Met Police v Havant (2.0), Norwich v Clifton, Redruth v Esher; Tabard v Bridgwater, Weston-super-Mare v Barking.

SWALEC CUP: Quarter-finals: Cross Keys v Tredegar (2.30), Pontypool v Cardiff (2.30), Pontypridd v Llanelli (2.30), Swansea v Ebbw Vale (2.30)

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Blackwood v Abertillery (2.30). Llandovery v Treorchy (2.30), Rumney v Maesteg (2.30). South Wales Police v Tondu (2.30), UWIC v Merthyr (2.30).

TENNENT'S VELVET PREMIERSHIP: First division: Boroughmuir v Hawick, Currie v Watsonians; Glasgow Hawks v West of Scotland; Jed-Forest v Melrose; Stirling County v Heriot's FP. **Second division:** Biggar v Aberdeen GSFP; Dundee HSFP v Musselburgh; Edinburgh Acads v Kirkcaldy; Gala v Kelso; Selkirk v Kilmarnock.

AIB LEAGUE: First division: Ballymena v Terenure (2.30). Shannon v Buccaneers (2.30). **Second division:** Ballynahinch v Wanderers (2.30), DLSP v Derry (2.30); Greystones v UCC (2.30); Malone v Bective Rangers (2.30). Old Crescent v Skerries (2.30), Old Wesley v Dungannon (2.30), Sunday's Well v Portadown (2.30)

RUGBY LEAGUE

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: Semi-final: Castleford v London (at Headingley, 2.45).

OTHER SPORT

ATHLETICS: World cross country championships (in Belfast).

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Birmingham Bullets v Manchester Giants (7.0), Derby Storm v Greater London Leopards (6.45); Leicester Riders v Edinburgh Rocks (7.30). London Towers v Chester Jets (7.30), Sheffield Sharks v Newcastle Eagles (7.30), Worthing Bears v Thames Valley Tigers (8.0)

HOCKEY: Women's National League: Premier division play-off, first leg: Aldridge v Doncaster

ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda play-off championship: Group A: Bracknell Bees v London Knights (6.0), Manchester Storm v Sheffield Steelers (7.0). **Group B:** Newcastle Riverkings v Ayr Scottish Eagles (6.30); Nottingham Panthers v Cardiff Devils (7.0)

MOTOR RACING: British Superbike championship (at Brands Hatch)

SUNDAY

FOOTBALL

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Qualifying group six: Israel v Cyprus (5.0)

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Crystal Palace v Bradford (3.0); Portsmouth v Barnsley (3.0). **Second division:** Burnley v Macclesfield (1.0), Lincoln v York (3.0). **Third division:** Peterborough v Mansfield (3.0).

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Third division: Dumbarton v Cowdenbeath (2.0)

RUGBY UNION

ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP: First division: Saracens v Bath (3.15). West Hartlepool v Sale (3.0). **Second division:** Leeds v Worcester (2.30)

AIB LEAGUE: Second division: Dolphin v Old Belvedere (2.30).

RUGBY LEAGUE

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: Semi-final: Bradford v Leeds (at Huddersfield, 2.30).

NORTHERN FORD PREMIERSHIP: Barrow v Leigh (3.0), Dewsbury v Workington (3.30); Featherstone v Lancashire Lynx (3.30); Hunslet v Doncaster (3.30). Oldham v Widnes (3.0); Whitehaven v Swinton (3.30); York v Batley (3.0)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Chester Jets v Sheffield Sharks (5.30); Greater London Leopards v Leicester Riders (at Southend, 6.0), Milton Keynes Lions v London Towers (4.0)

HOCKEY: Women's EHA Cup: Quarter-finals: Chelmsford Highway v Bradford; Fyffes Leicester v Clifton Scottish Life, Hightown v Olton Terraquest; Slough v Doncaster

ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda play-off championship: Group A: Sheffield Steelers v Manchester Storm (6.30); London Knights v Bracknell Bees (3.0). **Group B:** Ayr Scottish Eagles v Nottingham Panthers (6.30), Cardiff Devils v Newcastle Riverkings (6.0)

AN EXCLUSIVE PRIZE DRAW THE TIMES

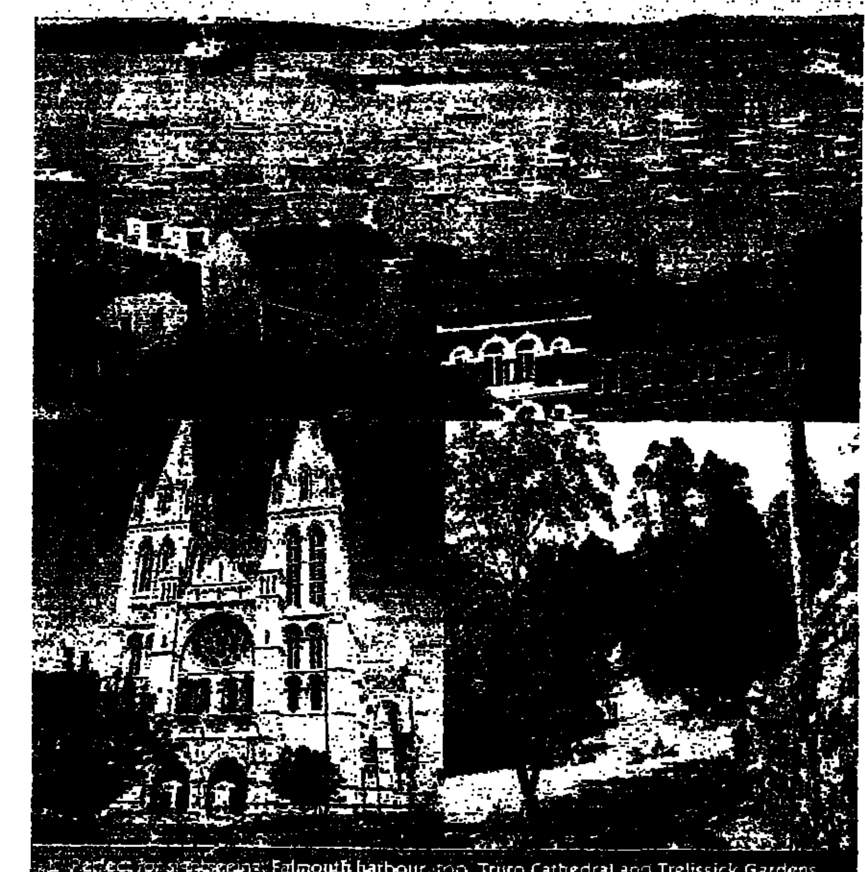
Win a cottage in Cornwall



Starting today, *The Times*, in association with the Virgin *One* account, offers readers the chance to win a lovely cottage in the typical Cornish village of Perranwell Station. Smithy Cottage, with its two bedrooms and pretty garden, is the ideal holiday home. Close to Truro and an 18-hole golf course, our prize cottage will provide the lucky winner with the perfect place from which to watch the eclipse of the sun on August 11.

Our partner in this great prize draw, is the Virgin *One* account. The *One* account brings all your banking and borrowing together, offers a 24-hour, seven-day telephone banking service and gives you the opportunity to save thousands of pounds in interest charges on your mortgage. Even if you are not lucky enough to win our fabulous cottage, you can still gain by finding out how much a Virgin *One* account could save you by making the most of all your money.





Perfect for sightseeing: Falmouth harbour, top, Truro Cathedral and Trelissick Gardens

HOW TO ENTER

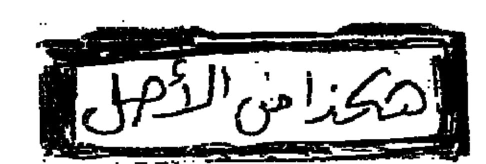
● All you have to do for a chance to win this dream cottage is collect 12 *Times* tokens and two tokens from *The Sunday Times* and attach them to an entry form which will be published for the first time tomorrow. A total of 28 tokens will appear between today and April 18 so you have at least two opportunities to enter. There will also be a bonus token published every Friday. The winner will be chosen at random from all entries received by Friday, April 30, 1999. Normal Times Newspapers prize draw rules apply.

● ALREADY A WINNER ●

Mr John Bromwich and his wife, Venda, whose two children are grown-up and have moved away, have had a Virgin One account for 15 months. "The main benefits are flexibility and that I know exactly where I stand at the end of each month," he said. "The One account is the most efficient thing I could do to make the most of all my money, and as a result interest payments are less than before. I am planning to buy a car using my One account so I'll pay less interest than I would with a traditional loan. I have also dabbled in stocks and shares using the account which is an added benefit."

TERMS AND CONDITIONS 1. Entrants must be 18 years or over and residents of the UK or Republic of Ireland. 2. You can enter the prize draw as many times as you wish. Each entry must be on an official entry form (no photocopies accepted) accompanied by 14 differently numbered tokens – 12 from *The Times* and two from *The Sunday Times*. 3. Tokens will be published daily from March 22 until April 18, 1999 in *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*. A total of 28 tokens will be published – 24 in *The Times* and four in *The Sunday Times*. 4. Entries must be received by Friday, April 30, 1999. 5. The winner will be drawn at random from all completed entries. 6. The prize is as stated in *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*. There is no cash alternative. The winner must accept the property as he or she finds it and Times Newspapers Limited (TNL) and Virgin Direct accept no responsibility whatsoever for any alterations or repairs deemed necessary by the winner. TNL and Virgin Direct reserve the right to substitute an alternative property of similar value to the prize as stated in the case of unforeseen issues arising with the featured property. 7. No purchase necessary. You can request an entry form and any tokens you need by making one or more applications, for up to four tokens (three Times, one Sunday Times) at a time. Send your application with a stamped sae to *The Times* Win a Cottage Token Request, PO Box 5088, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 7GR. Or you can collect the tokens and entry form in person (Mon-Fri) from News International, 1 Virginia St, London E1 9XN; 124 Portman St, Kinning Park, Glasgow G41; or 4th Floor, Hagueaot House, 35-38 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2. Requests must be received by Friday, April 23, 1999. 8. The prize draw will be independently supervised. The judge's decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into. 9. The winner will be notified by May 7, 1999. 10. The winner's name and photograph will be used for publicity purposes. 11. No responsibility can be accepted for entries damaged, lost or mislaid before or after delivery. Failure of an entry to be delivered by the date, or in the manner specified, will make the entry invalid. 12. Details of the prize winner may be obtained by sending a sae to *The Times* Competitions Dept, 1 Pennington St, London, E1 9XN. 13. Employees of TNL, Virgin Direct or any related companies are not eligible to enter. 14. Virgin Direct will transfer the prize to the winner and not to any other person. Once the transfer has been completed, Virgin Direct and TNL accept no responsibility whatsoever for the property or matters pertaining to its ownership. Virgin Direct relates to Virgin Direct Personal Finance Ltd, Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn, London EC1N 2TH.

CHANGING TIMES



Court of Appeal | Law Report March 22 1999 | Court of Appeal

Waiver of legal privilege is limited

Paragon Finance plc (formerly known as National Home Loans Corporation plc) and Others v Freshfields (a Firm)

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice Brooke and Lord Justice Chadwick

[Judgment March 11]

Where a client brought proceedings against his former solicitors for negligence in the handling of a commercial transaction between himself and a third party, the client's waiver of legal professional privilege, implied from his bringing the proceedings, did not extend to confidential communications between himself and different solicitors instructed to pursue and settle his claim against the third party.

The Court of Appeal so held, allowing an appeal by the plaintiffs, Paragon Finance plc, formerly known as National Home Loans Corporation plc, Collateralised Mortgage Securities (No 4) plc, Collateralised Mortgage Securities (No 6) plc, Collateralised Mortgage Securities (No 7) plc, Collateralised Mortgage Securities (No 8) plc and Collateralised Mortgage Securities (No 9) plc, from Mr Justice Buckley who, on a summons by the defendants, Freshfields, had ordered disclosure of certain documents, being confidential communications between the plaintiffs and their later solicitors, Slaughter & May, and counsel concerning their claims against insurers and the pursuit and settlement of those claims.

Freshfields had acted for the plaintiffs in a series of mortgage security transactions and in the obtaining of related insurance contracts. When the insurers declined to meet claims made by the plaintiffs allegedly under the policies, Freshfields, although initially advising, withdrew and Slaughter & May acted for the plaintiffs in pursuing and settling the claims.

The plaintiffs subsequently began a negligence action against Freshfields, claiming, inter alia, the costs of the negotiations and of the proceedings, the shortfall suffered in recovery under the policies and the fees charged by Slaughter & May in effecting the recovery and in restructuring the CMS companies.

Freshfields strongly denied the allegations, contested causation and loss, and alleged failure to mitigate and contributory negligence.

Mr Stewart Boyd, QC and Mr Charles Hollander for the plaintiffs; Mr Simon Browne-Wilkinson, QC and Mr Bankim Thanki for Freshfields.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, giving the judgment of the court, said that the judge had concluded that there was no real distinction between the situation in which the solicitor sued had acted for the client in a number of different transactions previously and the situation in which he had acted in some transactions and a different solicitor in others.

His Lordship referred to the judge's view that legal professional privilege was not significantly undermined by holding that the implied waiver arising from a client's suit against his lawyer for professional negligence extended to any privileged communications touching the transaction which gave rise to the negligence charge and which were relevant to the just determination of issues between them.

The plaintiffs criticised the decision as contrary to principle and to the balance of authority.

The defendants upheld it, drawing an analogy between express and implied waiver. They said that just as a party could not cherry-pick by expressly waiving privilege in part of a document and asserting it in relation to another part, so a party who sued his solicitor alleging negligence in relation to a given transaction impliedly waived privilege not only in relation to communications between him and the solicitor sued but also in relation to communications between him and any other solicitor he might have instructed in relation to the same transaction.

His Lordship said that the nature and basis of legal professional privilege had been often and authoritatively expounded: see *R v Derby Magistrates' Court, Ex parte B* ([1996] AC 487). At its root lay the obligation of confidence which a legal adviser owed to his client in relation to any confidential professional communication passing between them.

For readily intelligible reasons of public policy, the law had accorded to such communications a degree of protection denied to communications, however confidential, between clients and other professional advisers.

Save where client and legal adviser had abused their confidential relationship to facilitate crime or fraud, the protection was absolute unless the client, whose privilege it was, waived it expressly or impliedly.

A client expressly waived privilege when he elected to disclose communications which the privilege would entitle him not to disclose. While there was no rule that a party who waived privilege in relation to one communication was taken to waive it in relation to all, he might not waive it in such a partial and selective manner that unfairness or misunderstanding might result.

When a client sued a solicitor who had formerly acted for him complaining of negligence he invited the court to adjudicate on questions directly arising from the confidential relationship formerly subsisting between them. Since court proceedings were public, the client brought that formerly confidential relationship into the public domain.

He thereby waived any right to claim the protection of privilege in relation to any communication between them so far as necessary for the just determination of his claim.

That was an implication of law, the rationale of which was plain. A party could not deliberately subject a relationship to public scrutiny and at the same time seek to preserve its confidentiality.

He could not pick and choose, disclosing such incidents of the relationship as strengthened his claim and concealing from forensic scrutiny those as weakened it.

He could not attack his former solicitor and deny him the use of materials relevant to his defence. But since the implied waiver applied to communications between client and solicitor it would cover no communication to which the solicitor was not privy and so would disclose to the solicitor nothing of which he was not already aware.

By bringing the proceedings the plaintiffs had impliedly waived any claim to privilege in relation to confidential communications between them and Freshfields concerning the transactions up to the moment Freshfields had ceased to act. That was not in issue.

The question was whether the plaintiffs had also impliedly waived any such claim in relation to confidential communications between them and Slaughter & May relating to the pursuit and settlement of claims arising from those transactions. Approaching that question as one of pure principle: the court concluded that they had not.

They had not sued Slaughter & May, had not invited the court to adjudicate on any question arising from their confidential relationship with them and so had not brought that relationship into the public domain. They had done nothing to release Slaughter & May from the obligation of confidence by which they were bound. They had chosen to subject their relationship with Freshfields, not that with Slaughter & May, to public scrutiny. They were not seeking to pick and choose among confidential communications passing between themselves and Slaughter & May: none was, so far, in the forensic arena.

It was open to Freshfields by way of defence to rely on any communication passing between themselves and the plaintiffs. To hold that the plaintiffs had impliedly waived privilege in relation to confidential communications between themselves and Slaughter & May would be, not to enable Freshfields to rely on communications of which they were already aware, but to disclose to them communications of which they now had no knowledge.

The plaintiffs were correct in submitting that the judge's conclusion was inconsistent with the principles governing implied waiver of legal professional privilege.

It had, however, to be tested against the decided cases. His Lordship referred to *Lillicrap v Nalder and Son* ([1993] 1 WLR 94, 101, 102) where the Court of Appeal had ruled that the plaintiffs' implied waiver extended to earlier transactions handled for them by the same solicitors.

Both sides had relied on that decision: Freshfields for the reference to justice and fairness, contending that those considerations provided the correct test.

But that language could not be read without some limitation, otherwise legal professional privilege would disappear altogether, even as between plaintiffs and solicitors advising them in their proceedings against former solicitors, where the interests of justice called for disclosure.

The court's ruling in *Lillicrap* had to be read with reference to the subject matter of the appeal before it. The present court had no doubt it had been right to rule as it did. It was not understood to have gone further than that, and it was unnecessary for it to have done so.

His Lordship referred to *Nederlandse Reassurantie Groep Holding NV v Bacon and Woodrow* ([1995] 1 All ER 976) and to *Banque Bruxelles Lambert SA v Simmons & Simmons* (unreported, November 23, 1995) where Mr Justice Colman and Mr Justice Blackburne respectively had considered *Lillicrap* and correctly explained the principle on which implied waiver rested.

No assistance was gained from *Muller v Linsley and Mortimer* ([1996] 1 PNLR 74) from which no principle relevant to the present issue could be derived.

If the question were one of balancing the requirements of fairness and justice against any legitimate interest a plaintiff might have in maintaining the confidentiality of a confidential relationship there might be much to be said for the result reached by Mrs Justice Ebsworth in *Kershaw v Whelan* ([1996] 1 WLR 358, 370).

But *Ex parte B* ([1996] AC 487) made it plain that in the context of legal professional privilege no such balance was involved.

That authority was important not only for its clear restatement of principle but also as illustrating in graphic terms the all but absolute nature of that privilege in the absence of waiver. If ever there was a case in which the interests of justice militated in favour of disclosure, that surely was it.

Neither party had sought to contend that *Hayes v Dowding* ([1996] PNLR 578) was correctly decided and the court was satisfied that it was not. That decision had to be overruled.

In *Y Corporation Ltd v Y* (unreported, May 16, 1997) Mr Justice Moore-Bick had concluded that the documents in question were not relevant to any issue in the action and that was a conclusive answer to the application before him.

But he would appear to have accepted that privilege might be taken to be waived if it would be unfair to allow a client to maintain it. If that was a correct reading of his decision he went too far.

Fairness was an important part of the reason why a solicitor who was sued could not be required to respect the confidentiality of his relationship with the client who was suing him: but, save as between the client and the solicitor he was suing, fairness was not the touchstone by which it was determined whether a client had or had not impliedly waived his privilege.

Plainly the authorities did not speak with one voice. There was, however, nothing in *Lillicrap*, properly understood, which threw doubt on the principles which his Lordship had stated and that was the only authority on implied waiver binding on the present court.

The court remained of the clear opinion that those were the principles which governed the matter and was fortified in its view by the clear statements of principle in the cases of *Nederlandse Reassurantie Groep* and *Banque Bruxelles Lambert*.

Solicitors: Slaughter & May; Barlow Lyde & Gilbert.

Elvis Presley name not sufficiently distinctive

In re Elvis Presley Enterprises Inc

Before Lord Justice Simon Brown, Lord Justice Morritt and Lord Justice Robert Walker

[Judgment March 12]

The name of Elvis Presley was not a "distinctive mark" so as to be registrable as a trade mark under the Trade Marks Act 1938.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment in dismissing an appeal by Elvis Presley Enterprises Inc from Mr Justice Laddie who had upheld grounds of opposition by Mr Sid Shaw to Enterprises's applications for registration of trade marks.

The 1938 Act had been replaced by the Trade Marks Act 1994, but under the transitional provisions in Schedule 3 to the 1994 Act the 1938 Act continued to apply to pending applications for registration.

Section 9 of the 1938 Act, as amended by the 1984 Act, provides:

"(1) In order for a trade mark ... to be registrable ... it must contain or consist of at least one of the following essential particulars ... (b) the signature of the applicant ... (e) any other distinctive mark, but a name, signature, or word or words, other than such as fall within the descriptions in the foregoing paragraphs ... shall not be registrable under the provisions of this paragraph except upon evidence of its distinctiveness.

"(2) For the purposes of this section 'distinctive' means adapted ... to distinguish goods with which the proprietor of the trade mark is ... connected ... from goods in the case of which no such connections subsists...

"(3) In determining whether a trade is adapted to distinguish as aforesaid the tribunal may have regard to the extent to which - (a) the trade mark is inherently adapted to distinguish as aforesaid; and (b) by reason of the use of the trade mark ... the trade mark is in fact adapted to distinguish as aforesaid."

Section 10 provides:

"(1) In order for a trade mark to be registrable ... it must be capable, in relation to the goods in respect of which it is registered or proposed to be registered, of distinguishing goods with which the proprietor of the trade mark is or may be connected in the course of trade from goods in the case of which no such connection subsists..."

Mr Peter Prescott, QC, for Enterprises; Mr Richard Meade for Mr Shaw.

LORD JUSTICE ROBERT WALKER said that on January 26, 1989 Elvis Presley Enterprises Inc of Memphis, Tennessee, made three applications to register trade marks under the Trade Marks Act 1938, as amended by the Trade Marks (Amendment) Act 1984.

The numbers of the applications and the three marks applied for were:

1371624 signature 'Elvis A Presley'

1371627 ELVIS

1371637 ELVIS PRESLEY

All three applications were for the same specification: "Toilet preparations, perfumes, eau de cologne; preparations for the hair and teeth; soaps, bath and shower preparations; deodorants, antiperspirants and cosmetics; all included in Class 3."

The applications survived their initial examination in the Patent Office and were advertised in *The Trade Marks Journal* on different dates between March and May 1991.

On December 27, 1991 notices of opposition to all three applications were put in by Mr Sid Shaw, who traded as "Elvisly Yours" and was registered proprietor of that trade mark for a wide range of goods in Class 3. The notices stated six grounds of opposition, including lack of distinctiveness and conflict with Mr Shaw's own mark.

The registrar, as hearing officer, in a written decision dated January 31, 1996 found that the grounds of opposition were not made out, and he did not think it appropriate to exercise his discretion to refuse registration. The judge allowed Mr Shaw's appeal.

Mr Prescott conceded that his case on use under section 9(3)(b) was not going to get him home if he could not make out his case on inherent distinctiveness.

Elvis Presley was born in Tupelo, Mississippi in 1935 and died in Memphis, Tennessee in 1977. He gained great fame and riches as a rock and roll singer and starred in many films.

His fame had endured since his death and there were still devoted fans of his in many parts of the world. His house in Memphis, called Graceland, was still a place of pilgrimage for his fans, and there they could buy a wide range of souvenirs.

Enterprises was based at Memphis and it ran Graceland. It carried on merchandising activities previously carried on by or on behalf of Elvis Presley.

For the last 20 years Mr Shaw's activities had centred on Elvis Presley. Mr Shaw traded through a company named Elvisly Yours Ltd but he personally was the registered proprietor of the trade mark Elvisly Yours, which was registered for a wide range of goods in Class 3, but limited, as the applications by Enterprises were not, to goods relating to Elvis Presley.

The judge had observed: "Although Mr Shaw has sold millions of pounds worth of memorabilia bearing the name of Elvis or Elvis Presley over the last 18 or so years, it has not been suggested that anyone has ever thought they emanated from Enterprises."

In relation to all three applications the judge allowed the appeals on grounds related to distinctiveness or capability of distinguishing under sections 9 and 10 of the 1938 Act.

He said: "The distinctiveness addressed by the Act is not a quality of the mark which exists in a vacuum. It is a particular type of distinctiveness, namely the ability to distinguish the proprietor's goods from the same or similar goods marketed by someone else.

"The more a proposed mark alludes to the character, quality or non-origin attributes of the goods on which it is used or proposed to be used, the lower its inherent distinctiveness."

The judge was right to conclude that the ELVIS mark had very little inherent distinctiveness. That conclusion was reached by, inter alia, his finding that members of the public purchased Elvis Presley merchandise not because it came from a particular source but because it carried the name or image of Elvis Presley.

Indeed the judge came close to finding, although he did not in terms find, that for goods of the sort advertised by Elvisly Yours, or by Enterprises in the United States, the commemoration of the late Elvis Presley was the product, and the article on which the name or image appeared was little more than a vehicle.

The ELVIS PRESLEY mark differed from the ELVIS mark by the addition of a not particularly common surname.

Had it been almost any other surname, his Lordship excepted Costello, it would have made the mark more distinctive in the trade mark sense. But in the present case it simply confirmed the descriptive character of the mark.

In those circumstances the judge was bound to come to the same conclusion about the ELVIS PRESLEY mark.

In relation to the signature mark 'Elvis A Presley' the judge had said:

"Although the registry and the court must start from the premise that signatures are prima facie distinctive, they are not inevitably so ... Someone ... may adopt a signature which consists of his surname spelt out in precise capitals or in a perfect script which is indistinguishable from, say, Times Roman font. Such writings, though signatures, would be indistinguishable from the printed form of the name and ... would not be distinctive."

The example given by the judge was so extreme that the court might simply decline to treat the mark as a signature at all. The 'Elvis A Presley' signature mark was miles away from that, and the judge was wrong to conclude that the signature mark was not distinctive under section 9(1)(b).

However, his Lordship agreed with the judge's alternative ground of decision under sections 11 and 12 of the 1938 Act. Mr Shaw's registered Elvisly Yours mark was in cursive script with a Greek E which, while more regular and more florid, bore at least some resemblance to the Greek E at the beginning of the 'Elvis A Presley' signature.

The test was whether, if the two rival marks were used in a fair and normal manner, the court was satisfied that there was no reasonable likelihood of deception or confusion being caused to a substantial number of members of the public.

For that purpose the public was to be regarded as ordinary persons, neither specially careful nor specially careless, who would be in the market as possible purchaser of the goods in question. The burden of proof was on the applicant for the later registration.

Lord Justice Morritt delivered a concurring judgment.

LORD JUSTICE SIMON BROWN, concurring, said that in addressing the critical issue of distinctiveness there should be no a priori assumption that only a celebrity or his successors might ever market, or license the marketing of, his own character. Monopolies should not be so readily created.

Solicitors: Eversheds; Cameron McKenna.

Joint guarantor entitled to contribution

Stimpson v Smith

Before Lord Justice Peter Gibson, Lord Justice Judge and Lord Justice Tuckey

[Judgment March 11]

Where two guarantors jointly and severally guaranteed a company's debts to a bank and one guarantor made a voluntary payment to the bank, thereby reducing the company's outstanding liability and extinguishing the guarantee to the advantage of the co-guarantor, he was entitled to a contribution from the co-guarantor, notwithstanding that the first acted without the other's knowledge and prior consent and in the absence of a written demand by the bank as required by the contract of guarantee.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment, dismissing an appeal by the defendant, John Anderson Smith, against the judgment of Mr Recorder Hall at Brighton County Court on January 28, 1998, in favour of the plaintiff, Michael Harbourne Stimpson, for £10,000 and £5,786 costs.

In October 1990, the debtor company, of which the plaintiff and defendant were directors and shareholders, was granted an overdraft facility by the creditor bank and the parties jointly and severally guaranteed payment to the bank on demand in writing of all liabilities of the company up to a maximum of £25,000.

The company exceeded its overdraft limit and, in December 1991, the bank required the company to reduce the overdraft. Under an oral agreement negotiated between the plaintiff and the bank, the plaintiff arranged for his shares to be sold and paid the bank £20,000 to reduce the overdraft. Both the plaintiff and the defendant were thereby released from liability under the guarantee.

Following the compulsory winding up of the company in 1994 and its dissolution in 1996, the plaintiff sought a contribution of £10,000 from the defendant and in due course he issued proceedings in the county court.

The recorder, allowing the plaintiff's claim, held that for liability to arise under the guarantee, a written demand was required to be made by the bank to the guarantors, but that the plaintiff was entitled to recover in equity.

The defendant appealed on the ground that no liability to contribute arose without a formal demand having been made by the bank.

Mr Lawrence Caun for the defendant; Mr Clifford Darton for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE PETER GIBSON said that the appeal raised the question whether one co-guarantor of a debt could recover a contribution from another co-guarantor where the first co-guarantor had paid the creditor part of that debt in securing the release of the guarantee without any formal demand being made on either co-guarantor by the creditor, although service of a written demand was provided for under the guarantee.

It was plain that the company had been required by the bank in December 1991 to make an immediate payment of at least part of its debt by the demand for a reduction in the overdraft, and that the bank had the immediate right to serve a demand on the co-guarantors or either of them to meet their liabilities under the guarantee at the time the plaintiff negotiated the release of the guarantee and the payment by him of £20,000.

Provisions in a guarantee that there should be a demand made by the creditor on the guarantor were clearly for the benefit of the guarantor alone and could be waived by the guarantor, who was not bound to wait for a demand before paying: see *Thomas v Nottingham Incorporated Football Club Ltd* ([1972] Ch 596).

Mr Caun submitted that the position was different where there were co-guarantors under the guarantee and he pointed out that the defendant knew nothing of what was going on.

But the plaintiff and defendant guaranteed the company's liabilities jointly and severally. It was not in dispute that the bank had the right to go against either of them without notifying the other. In those circumstances it was impossible to say that one co-guarantor alone did not have the right to waive the procedural or evidentiary requirement of service of a written demand, which was included in the guarantee for his benefit.

Where, as here, the guarantor paid £20,000 in circumstances where the debt immediately owed by the company greatly exceeded the £25,000 limit of the guarantee and the guarantee was extinguished, there was no problem in ascertaining the amount of the contribution and no reason why the contribution should not arise on the payment notwithstanding the absence of any demand.

Of course payment of the guaranteed debt without the prior consent of the co-guarantor or a court order imposing liability on the co-guarantor to pay a contribution did not shut out the co-guarantor from arguing that the payment was officious or voluntary and that no contribution should be required. The paying co-guarantor in those circumstances took the risk that it might be established that no contribution was due.

On the facts, it was impossible to accept that the payment made by the plaintiff was officious or voluntary. In fact he did well for the defendant and himself in securing the extinction of their joint and several liability under the guarantee up to £25,000 by the payment of only £20,000, given that the company could not indemnify them against their liability.

Lord Justice Judge and Lord Justice Tuckey delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Dzimitrowicz York, Croydon; Edward Harte & Co, Brighton.

Little mitigation

Regina v Ellingham

Where a defendant was convicted of possession of heroin with intent to supply it to a person in prison, the defendant's good character was of comparatively little mitigating significance.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division (Lord Justice Rose and Mr Justice Hooper) so held on January 28 in dismissing an appeal by Wendy Jacqueline Ellingham against a sentence of three years detention in a young offender institution imposed in October 1998 at Doncaster Crown Court (Judge Sutcliffe sitting with two justices) on her plea of guilty to possession of a class A drug with intent to supply.

LORD JUSTICE ROSE said that the gravity of taking drugs into prison had already been emphasised in the cases of *R v Slater* ([1998] 2 Cr App R (S) 415) and *R v Prince* ([1996] 1 Cr App R (S) 335) and needed no further emphasis by their Lordships.

Corrections

In *G and GB Hewitt Ltd v SA Namur-Assurances du Credit* (*The Times* March 8) counsel for the plaintiff was Mr Timothy Smith.

In *Myers v Dortex International Ltd* (*the Times* March 18) Mr Tim Horlock, QC and Mr Richard A. Hartley appeared for Myers; Dortex did not appeal and was not represented.

Judge does not cross-examine

Regina v Wiggan

The opportunity given to a judge to ask questions after re-examination was designed for the clarification of issues. It was improper of him to pursue a line of questioning which smacked of a prosecution cross-examination.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division (Lord Justice Auld, Mr Justice Forbes and Mr Justice Steel) so stated on February 4 when dismissing an appeal by Joy Louise Wiggan against her conviction for violent disorder on February 20, 1998 at Sheffield Crown Court (Judge Morrison and a jury).

LORD JUSTICE AULD said that the defendant's counsel had been probing the question of identification throughout the trial. At the end of his re-examination counsel had conventionally and courteously asked the judge if he had any questions.

The judge proceeded to ask some 64 questions going to the critical issue of the defendant's presence. These questions were not to clear up uncertainties, to fill gaps, or to answer queries which might be lurking in the jury's mind. They were of a testing nature which suggested scepticism of the defendant's evidence, were more in the nature of a search in cross-examination and, in their entirety, so far as the effect was concerned, improper.

It was accepted, however, that the judge had adequately directed the jury on the dangers of mis-recognition. Much as the court deplored the intervention of the judge, given the strong identification evidence, the conviction could not be held to be unsafe.

Scots Law Report March 22 1999 Outer House

Cross-examining volunteered statement

Barry v News Group Newspapers Ltd

Before Lord Nimmo Smith

[Judgment December 18]

A priest who alleged that he had been defamed by claims that he had spent nights with a woman, and who in evidence volunteered the statement that he had never broken his vow of chastity, notwithstanding the fact that it was unnecessary for him to do so since that was not strictly the issue, could nevertheless be cross-examined as to the truth of his statement; not because in cross-examination of the pursuer in an action of defamation, open season could be declared on his past life, but because elementary fairness required that if a witness, whose credibility was otherwise in issue, made a statement of fact, he should be open to challenge on that statement.

Lord Nimmo Smith, sitting with a jury in the Outer House of the *Court of Session*, so held, repelling an objection by counsel for Father Noel Barry and Mrs Annie Kerr Clinton to a proposed line of cross-examination of Father Barry by counsel for News Group Newspapers Ltd in an action of damages for defamation.

Mr Paul Cullen, QC and Mr Ronald Clancy for the pursuers; Mr Neil Davidson, QC and Mr Alistair Clark for the defenders.

LORD NIMMO SMITH said that counsel for the defenders had asked Father Barry: "If I were to suggest that you had had sexual relations with another woman, what would your answer be?" At that point objection had been taken to the line of cross-examination.

One of the issues before the jury was whether the defenders had falsely and calumniously or truthfully stated that Father Barry had spent nights and weekends with Mrs Clinton at her home during a six-year period.

There was accordingly an issue about the truth of certain matters of fact. Father Barry had given evidence about them and had been cross-examined in a manner that had laid the foundation for leading substantive evidence about them in due course. His credibility had thus been put in issue.

Counsel for the defenders justified the line of examination for two reasons.

First, he referred to a line of authority summarised in *Macphail on Evidence* (paragraph 16.05), permitting cross-examination about acts of unchastity where notice had been given: see *A v B* ((1895) 22 R 402); *H v P* ((1905) 8 F 232) and *C v M* (1923 SC 1).

However, the present case differed because the defenders were not offering to prove that the pursuers had had a sexual relationship at any time. In an action of defamation a pursuer necessarily put his character in issue. That did not, however, enable defenders in cross-examination to declare open season on his past life.

The second ground relied on by the defenders was simply that, given that Father Barry had volunteered the statements in question, counsel was entitled to challenge them by way of an attack on his credibility: see *King v King* ((1841) 4 D 124, 134).

His Lordship's view was that, consistently with *King*, where the credibility of a witness was in issue, he was open to challenge during the course of cross-examination on the truth of any statement made by him during his evidence.

It was necessary to distinguish here the character, in the sense of reputation, of a pursuer in an action of defamation and the credibility of a witness who, in the course of his evidence, made a statement of fact.

If his credibility was in issue in other respects, it could properly be regarded as relevant to his credibility to explore with him whether a statement of fact which he had chosen to make was true or not. Father Barry need not have made the statements that he had.

His Lordship had difficulty with the suggestion that a witness who volunteered a statement which he need not have made should be immune from cross-examination in a context in which his credibility was otherwise in issue.

Any witness who made a statement on oath exposed himself to challenge as to its truthfulness.

Elementary fairness required that if such a witness made a statement of fact, he should be open to challenge on that statement. Otherwise the statement would go unchallenged and would presumably have to be accepted by the jury as true.

Moreover, an effective challenge had to amount to more than putting it to the witness that the statement was untrue. The cross-examiner had to be permitted to challenge the statement by putting specific instances in which it was said to be untrue.

Law agents: J. & R. A. Robertson, WS, for J. McSparran & McCormick, Glasgow; Bird Semple.

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
4,871.70	Allied Domecq†	465½	– 27½	6.8	11.8
170.30	Bulmer (HP)	322½	+ 23½	5.8	14.4
6.62	Burn Stewart	11½			
24,006.10	Diageo	670	– 21½	2.8	16.5
78.90	Glenmorangie A	580	– 20	3.1	15.7
305.30	Highland Dist	228½	– 18	5.1	10.4
6.83	Minyden W	35	+ ½	..	..
4,410.00	SA Breweries	570	+ 25	..	..

BANKS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
18,563.90	ABN-AMRO	1300	+ 87½	3.0	16.2
18,449.30	Abbey Natl	1302	– 1	2.9	18.0
4,896.80	Alliance & Leic	838½	+ 25	3.2	15.1
9,011.00	Allied Irish†	1046	+ 27½	2.3	.
6,791.40	Aus New Z	441¼	+ 28½	4.6	.
77,877.80	Bank America	4900	+ 84¾	.	.
10,304.20	Bank Scotland	833	– 35½	1.6	20.9
25,878.00	Barclays†	1780	– 84	3.2	19.9
6,727.10	Bk of Ireland	1310	+ 68½	2.1	21.5
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
34.30	European Mo	63½	– 3	12.8	5.9
83.40	Evans Halshaw	259		8.2	8.3
12.40	Fla Group	60	+ 2	2.5	.
105.10	Finelist Grp†	127¼	– 8½	8.3	4.8
15.40	Glencheidon	53½		5.1	6.7
9.21	Gowrings	103½	– 10	4.3	...
28.60	HR Owen	176	+ 33½	6.6	
240.40	Headlam	351½	+ 8	2.6	.
3.94	Hercules Tech	98½	...	8.6	5.4
21.30	ISA Intl	40	– 1	3.2	
763.30	Inchcape	144	+ 8½	8.2	22.0
6.81	Jacks (Wm)	62½	...	8.0	3.9
807.30	Kwik-Fit	452	+ 53½	1.8	19.5
476.30	Lex Service†	414½	– 4½	5.2	9.1
26.60	Lookers	78½	– 3½	11.2	6.0
176.50	Menzies (John)†	313	– 14½	5.7	8.3
8.10	Mitchelser	7	...	.	.
12.30	Moccates	33½	.	2.8	6.1
22.60	Nastase	209	– 67	5.9	8.9
50.40	Normamber	146	+ 7½	3.6	7.9
177.80	Pancoo	175	– 1½	8.4	
104.30	Pendragon	171½	– 18	8.0	...
35.60	Perry Cp	135½	+ 5	8.0	...
526.90	Premier Farnell	194	+ 8	5.3	11.8
33.20	Quicks Group	87½	– 1	11.4	5.6
4.19	REA	45	...	8.9	11.0
3.10	Reece	1½			
12.90	Ring	32½	– ½	6.2	8.9
9.40	Ranson	1			
4.06	Ross Co	2½	– ½		7.7
22.00	Rytand	77½	– 1	6.8	..

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
6,942.00	SMH†	975	– 41	1.7	12.1
36,606.40	General Mo	5559¾	+ 967/8	2.2	..
278.60	Healys	514	+ 45	3.9	12.6
27,320.40	Honda Motor	2803¾	+ 241¼	0.4	20.0
320.10	Laird†	224½	– 6½	6.7	7.4
4,002.40	LucasVarity	206½	+ 1½	2.1	18.0
476.20	Mayflower	185	+ 12	2.0	15.0
23.40	Syltone	96½		8.1	7.1
14.00	Tood	21½	+ 2	.	15.7
148.70	Turbtak	129½	– 8	...	.
40.60	Wichaw	43½	+ 1½	2.3	14.4

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
81.70	Cardinal Euro Gwth	39½	– 1	.	..
411.90	Chart European	508½	– 5½	1.4	72.4
70.40	City Merch HYI	106	– 1½	7.8	...
560.20	City Of Lon†	286	– 6½	3.2	36.6
5.95	Dawac Inv Inc	81½	...	13.0	10.4
115.50	Dartmoor†	187½	– ¼	9.0	13.5
2.18	Dartmoor Wts	54½		...	...
30.50	Dartmoor RPI	£180½		4.8	.
93.20	Derby Cap	607½	– 15	.	
12.80	Derby Inc	108	– 1	20.1	6.2
22.00	Dresdner RCM Emg	77	+ 2½	...	...
18.90	Dres RCM Smlr	143	+ 3	2.6	.
354.60	Dunedin Inc G†	221½	– 6½	2.9	..

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
0.90	Newmarket	2½			
61.10	Pacific Assets	47	+ ½	0.9	
42.40	Perpetual Euro	117¾	– 3½	...	...
230.18	Perp Inc Gth	130½	..	2.5	..
15.60	Perpetual Jap	42½	– 3½	..	..
49.20	Perpl Uk Sm Co	344	+ 10½	2.1	...
38.90	Personal Assets	£194½	+ 100	1.6	
8.72	Piccadilly Gwth	186	+ 1	1.9	
70.60	Prolific Inc	734¾	– 2	4.2	29.5
611.50	RIT Cap Ptn	336	– ½	0.7	...
9,385.70	Robeco NV	7787½	+ 162½	1.2	...
4,342.00	Rolinco NV	6637½	+ 81½	0.9	..
72.80	Schrd Asia Pac	52	+ 1½	1.2	77.1

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
102.40	Hodder Hdlne	290	+ 1	3.0	..
49.40	ITE Group	31	– 1	7.1	4.4
64.80	Incepta	19¾	– ½	2.2	8.7
697.60	Independent†	280	+ 11½	3.0	...
419.60	Informa	285	– 6½	1.7	25.7
3.67	Intereurope	63½		7.0	7.7
556.10	Johnston Press	277½	+ 7½	1.4	19.6
29.70	Lopex	54½	– 3½	2.5	9.8
182.10	Maiden	412½	– 2½	1.8	26.8
5.17	Mediakey	7½	– ½	13.8	...
153.70	Metal Bulletin	1450	+ 81	1.9	...
931.30	Mirror Gp	204	+ 5	2.8	11.4
183.80	NEWSCOM†	756½	– 3½	3.9	12.8

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES · BANKS · BREWERIES, PUBS & REST · BUILDING MATERIALS · CHEMICALS · CONSTRUCTION · DISTRIBUTORS · DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS · ELECTRICITY · ELECTRONIC & ELECT · ENGINEERING · ENGINEERING, VEHICLES · FOOD MANUFACTURERS · HEALTHCARE · HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT · INSURANCE · INVESTMENT TRUSTS · LEISURE & HOTELS · MEDIA · MINING · OIL & GAS · OTHER FINANCIAL · PHARMACEUTICALS · PRINTING & PAPER · PROPERTY · RETAILERS, FOOD · RETAILERS, GENERAL · SUPPORT SERVICES · TELECOMMUNICATIONS · TRANSPORT · WATER · ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
87.40	J Fry Utill	143¾	– 3½	4.9	17.2
49.30	J Fry Util Inct	85½	+ ¼	8.2	62.0
52.80	Jupiter Eu Inc	142	– ¼	6.9	17.6
2.34	Jupiter Eu IncWt	39	+ 1½	.	..
38.10	Jupiter Intl Grp	143½	+ ½	3.6	.
46.70	Jupiter Primar†	840	– 2½	1.0	.
56.20	Kiniwi End	187½	– 1½	.	..
97.80	Korea Euro	208¾	+ 2½	0.6	...
263.30	Law Debenture†	1135	+ 2½	3.3	30.9

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
1,790.00	Thomson Travel	179	+ 4	1.8	18.8
84.10	Tottenham Hot	83½	+ 1	8.4	...
25.40	Waterlaft	61½	– 1½	0.4	14.3
182.80	Wembley	330	– 15½	1.5	8.6
8.75	Zetters Gp	121½	– 9	9.8	8.0

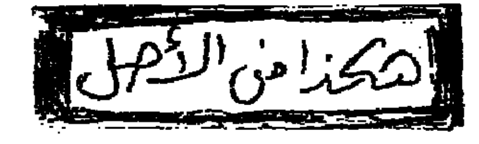
SHORTS (under 5 years)

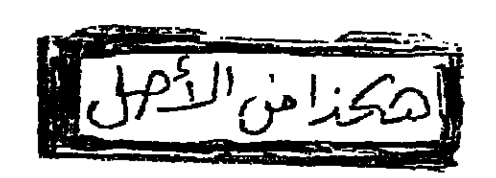
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

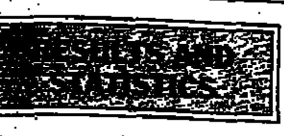
LONGS (over 15 years)

UNDATED

INDEX-LINKED







TODAY

Interims: Schroder Ventures International Investment Trust. **Finals:** Alexon Group, Asda Property, A&C Black, Core Group, Flying Flowers, Meristem, Morgan Crucible, Nestor Healthcare Group, Newsquest, Peptide Therapeutics, Roxboro, Transtec, TT Group. **Economic statistics:** q4 final GDP, q4 balance of payments.

TOMORROW

Interims: Allied London Properties, Dowding & Mills, Scottish Metropolitan Properties, Wescol Group. **Finals:** Capital Industries, Charles Baynes, BLP Group, Boosey & Hawkes, Dawsongroup, Delta, EBC Group, Frogmore Estates, Hunting, Iceland Group, Macfarlane Group, Moorepay Group, Newport Holdings, Pegasus Group, P&O, Severfield-Reeve, Sherwood Group. **Economic statistics:** February consumer price indices.

WEDNESDAY

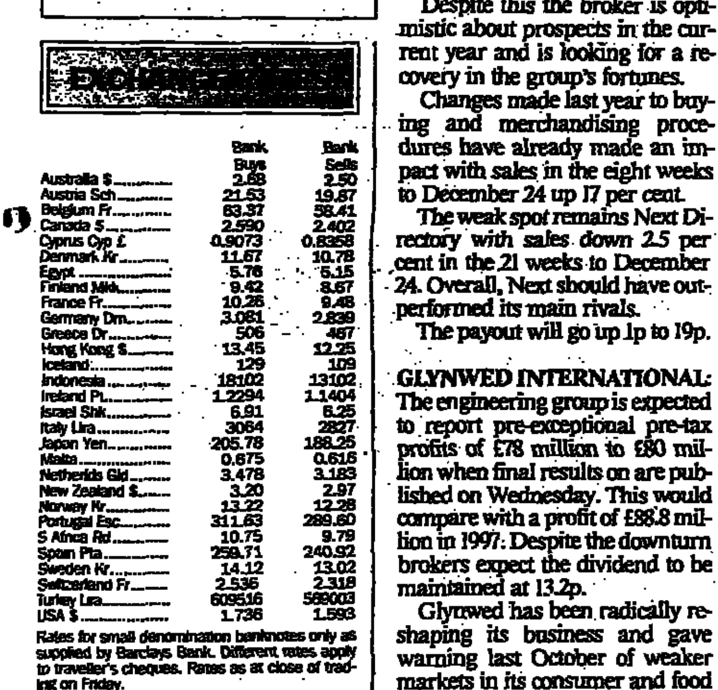
Interims: Barratt Developments. **Finals:** Alliance UniChem, AG Barr, Brake Bros, Chelsfield, City Centre Restaurants, Darby Group, Fishers International, Flextech, Glynwed International, Independent News, Bernard Matthews, Next, Quality Software, Slough Estates, Stanford Rook Holdings, Taylor & Francis Group, Television Corp, Weir Group, Wolstenholme Rink. **Economic statistics:** January global, February non-EU trade, NTC February cyclical indicators.

THURSDAY

Interims: Belgo Group, Cairngorm Dem Investment Trust, Leicester City, Northern Leisure, Quayle Munro, Scottish Oriental. **Finals:** Ask Central, COLT Telecom (q4), Informa Group, Kingspan Group, Norcor, Novara, Ottakar's, Premier Oil, Quadrant Healthcare, Silvermines, Singer & Friedlander Group. **Economic statistics:** British Bankers' Association analysis of February mortgage lending, Confederation of British Industry March industrial trends survey.

FRIDAY

Interims: none scheduled. **Finals:** Emess, IS Solutions. **Economic statistics:** none scheduled.



	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.68	2.50
Austria Sch	21.53	19.87
Belgium Fr	63.37	58.41
Canada $	2.590	2.402
Cyprus Cyp £	0.9073	0.8358
Denmark Kr	11.67	10.78
Egypt	5.76	5.15
Finland Mkk	9.42	8.67
France Fr	10.28	9.48
Germany Dm	3.081	2.839
Greece Dr	506	467
Hong Kong $	13.45	12.25
Iceland	129	109
Indonesia	18102	13102
Ireland Pt	1.2294	1.1404
Israel Shk	6.91	6.25
Italy Lira	3064	2827
Japan Yen	205.78	188.25
Malta	0.675	0.616
Netherlds Gld	3.478	3.183
New Zealand $	3.20	2.97
Norway Kr	13.22	12.28
Portugal Esc	311.63	289.60
S Africa Rd	10.75	9.79
Spain Pta	258.71	240.92
Sweden Kr	14.12	13.02
Switzerland Fr	2.536	2.318
Turkey Lira	609516	569003
USA $	1.736	1.593

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.



COMPANIES — MICHAEL CLARK

P&O sails into calmer waters

PENINSULA & ORIENTAL: The cruise division of P&O will have provided the thrust to power profits ahead. Final results, due out tomorrow, will show pre-tax profits coming in at between £390 million and £410 million. That compares with £363 million last time. Earnings per share are likely to be up from 44p to 46.5p.

Brokers say the group should be capable of similar earnings growth in the current year after a shake-up designed to simplify its complicated structure.

During the period, P&O took delivery of two new cruise ships, but the benefit from this will not be apparent until the current year. Its performance this time is expected to show a 26 per cent increase in operating profit to £220 million.

The outcome might have been even better had it not been for the drop in cruising yields blamed on the downturn midway through the year on Wall Street.

The other divisions will also have made progress, with the exception of container shipping, where yields remain under pressure, bulk shipping, suffering from overcapacity, and investment property. Lord Sterling of Plaistow, the chairman, will no doubt use the results to press the case of the retention of duty-free.

Underlying profits have been bolstered by disposal gains of £71 million. The dividend goes up from 30.5p to 32p.



Something to declare: Lord Sterling of Plaistow is expected to report a strong performace at P&O's cruise division

NEXT: Last week's gloomy retail figures indicated a further drop in clothing sales and an increase in the level of discounting. So brokers will want some positive comments from Next when it reports final results on Wednesday.

However, BT Alex Brown, the broker, is forecasting a downturn in pre-tax profits from £176 million to £159 million, after costs totalling £3 million relating to the closure of overseas stores. Earnings per share should also be down about 10 per cent at 30.8p.

Despite this the broker is optimistic about prospects in the current year and is looking for a recovery in the group's fortunes.

Changes made last year to buying and merchandising procedures have already made an impact with sales in the eight weeks to December 24 up 17 per cent.

The weak spot remains Next Directory with sales down 2.5 per cent in the 21 weeks to December 24. Overall, Next should have outperformed its main rivals.

The payout will go up 1p to 19p.

GLYNWED INTERNATIONAL: The engineering group is expected to report pre-exceptional pre-tax profits of £78 million to £80 million when final results on are published on Wednesday. This would compare with a profit of £88.8 million in 1997. Despite the downturn brokers expect the dividend to be maintained at 13.2p.

Glynwed has been radically reshaping its business and gave warning last October of weaker markets in its consumer and food service division. Last month it moved closer to completing its corporate restructuring with the sale of most of its metals processing division for £145 million. The group now intends to concentrate on its two core areas of plastic pipe systems and consumer and food service products.

SG Securities, the broker, expects profits to emerge at £78 million. BT Alex Brown has pencilled in profits of £78.1 million, while Charterhouse Tilney is looking for £78 million.

WEIR GROUP: Fresh from its successful defence of the unwanted 300p a share bid from Flowserve, the US group, this month, the Scottish pump manufacturer unveils annual results on Wednesday. Pre-tax profits are expected to be between £62 million and £65 million, compared with £60.1 million. Analysts expect a rise in the dividend to between 9.7p and 9.9p compared with 9p.

The board must now convince investors that it can deliver value. It will have to make clear its strategic direction and spell out a more aggressive acquisitions policy through the utilisation of its cash balances. The group could spend up to £250 million. But, because of the prospect of a further deterioration in manufacturing in 1999, earnings are expected to come under increasing pressure.

Demand for Weir's products has been declining as the low oil price, weak metal prices and the general slowdown in global markets have restricted profits growth.

LUCASVARITY: The British automotive parts group is currently the target of a £4 billion agreed bid from TRW, the US group. The offer closes on Thursday when final results will no doubt attract only passing interest. The group is expected to report full-year pre-tax profits before exceptionals of between £335 million and £350 million. The previous year it achieved a profit of £329 million.

Brokers are forecasting a total dividend of 5p a share, compared with 4.5p last time.

The figures will be largely academic, but analysts will be looking for any signs of weakness in the worldwide automotive markets and gauging how last year's disruption at General Motors affected profitability.

Brokers will also want to establish how the targeted $200 million of cost savings resulting from the merger will be achieved and whether LucasVarity's aerospace division is to be put up for sale. It could be worth £750 million. Smiths Industries has already expressed an interest.

MORGAN CRUCIBLE: Few surprises are likely when the industrial ceramics group reports final results today. It issued a profits warning in January. Pre-exceptional pre-tax profits are expected to come in at between £87.5 million and £92 million (£108 million). The total dividend is likely to be held at 15.5p.

The group last week confirmed that it is selling its maintenance, repair and overhaul business for £174 million and outlined plans to buy back shares. It has already indicated that profits should be towards the "better end" of market expectations. Trading since the start of 1999 has been "satisfactory". Some factors that hit profits last year have not persisted.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Spotlight on prices data

With the Bank of England seemingly still biased towards further rate cuts, analysts will be closely examining this week's economic data for the kind of weakness that might persuade the Bank to act sooner rather than later.

The inflation data on Tuesday will be more confused than usual because the early Budget means a number of tax rises will kick in earlier than last year. Some of the inflationary effects of the tax rises are, however, expected to be offset by falling mortgages and the general downwards trend in inflation. As a result, the City anticipates headline inflation to continue to fall to 2.2 per cent while underlying inflation should return to its target level of 2.5 per cent.

Equal attention is likely to be devoted to the Confederation of British Industry March industrial trends survey which is published on Thursday. The minutes from the last Monetary Policy Committee meeting suggest that a slight improvement in survey evidence tipped the balance towards holding rates steady. Analysts will be waiting to see if the improvement is sustained or whether the renewed climb in the pound suggests the manufacturing sector's recession still has a long way to run.

Today, the third and final estimate of fourth-quarter GDP is published with significant revisions considered unlikely. The quarterly growth rate is expected to remain at 0.2 per cent leaving the annual rate at 1.3 per cent. The current account data is likely to attract more attention with the rapid deterioration in the trade balance expected to tip the whole current account into deficit. Analysts are expecting a deficit of £1.2 billion, compared with a third-quarter surplus of £2.3 billion.

The trade figures, which are released on Wednesday, are also expected to signal that the current account should worsen across this year. City analysts are expecting the global January deficit to widen from £2.2 billion to £2.7 billion while the non-EU deficit should narrow only marginally in February to £2 billion.

Abroad, European data is expected to take centre stage. Although the European Central Bank again decided against a rate cut at its meeting last week, analysts are still hoping that the ECB will cut once the European political situation is a little more stable. Producer prices data published today should show prices registering a fall of 2.5 per cent from the same month last year while the euroland inflation data on Thursday is expected to show inflation unchanged at 0.8 per cent.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: **Buy** Clydeport, Eurocopy, Hay & Robertson. *The Observer*: **Buy** British Energy, Epwin, Eurocopy; **Sell** JD Wetherspoon. *The Sunday Telegraph*: **Buy** Asda Property Holdings, Europcopy, Kingfisher, Wellington Underwriting; **Sell** Aberdeen Asset Management, Financial Objects. *Sunday Express*: **Buy** Compco, Hazlewood Foods, Proteus; **Hold** Epwin, Sun Life & Provincial, JD Wetherspoon. *Sunday Business*: **Buy** Rolls-Royce, Caradon, Wimpey.

Poor using alternative bank system

By Alexandra Frean and Karen Wolfson

A THRIVING alternative "banking" system based on self-help and thrift is flourishing in the poorest parts of Britain, a new study has found.

The increasingly marginalised band of people who have no bank account, savings or credit cards are being forced to new levels of inventiveness by their continued exclusion from mainstream financial services.

A study into financial exclusion, funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, shows that 1.5 million households (7 per cent) make no use of financial services at all and that 4.4 million (20 per cent) use just one or two.

Claire Whyley, co-author of the report, said that while many people who had no bank account still relied on keeping money in jam jars or envelopes as their main form of saving, other systems had been developed to take advantage of new technology.

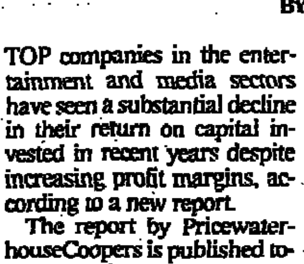
Many people who have prepayment cards or prepayment meters from gas or electricity companies "save" money by loading up their cards or meters with more cash than they know they will need to cover their immediate bills.

That way, the money will be there to pay future bills, but they cannot spend it in the meantime.

Many people hoard money by buying more TV stamps than they actually need. Others allow child benefit payments to build up before claiming it. Others gave cash to a friend who did have an account to look after it. "The idea of all these things is to ensure that there is no cash left lying around, which they may be tempted to spend," the report said. The study identified five groups of people who have never made any use of financial services: people who have never had a secure job, the elderly (aged 70 and over) who are part of a cash-only generation and young adults, young single mothers and some minority ethnic groups.

Ms Whyley said that, although the number of people who were financially excluded was falling, those who did not have access to bank and savings accounts were finding life increasingly difficult. "Dealing entirely in cash complicates the process of bill payments, results in charges for cash payments and often increases the costs of basic services, such as fuel."

Ms Whyley said a simple bank account was needed that would not allow an overdraft but would allow people to go into the red for small amounts over a short period without charge.



LINKS

Understanding and Combatting Financial Exclusion, by Elaine Kempson and Claire Whyley, Policy Press. Price £12.95.

MARTIN BEDDALL

McDonald's is rumoured to have been looking at Aroma

Mövenpick hungry for coffee shop business

By Dominic Walsh

MÖVENPICK, the Swiss hotel and restaurant group, is on the prowl for a coffee shop business in the UK after the collapse of a £9.5 million deal to acquire the Aroma chain.

There were unconfirmed rumours last week that McDonald's, the burger chain, has been casting an eye over Aroma. It would be a change of strategy in the UK for McDonald's, which currently operates only under its own brand.

Mövenpick, which owns the Marché restaurant in Victoria, Central London, has instructed its London-based agent, Berkeley Simmons Davis (BSD), to find a fresh takeover target after its withdrawal from the Aroma deal. It is also keen to establish a hotel presence here.

Elsewhere, Scottish & Newcastle Retail has boosted to 13 its Espres café chain with the acquisition of ten sites in London from Sofra, the Turkish operator, for an estimated £2.5 million.

Returns fall in media sector

By Raymond Snoddy, Media Editor

TOP companies in the entertainment and media sectors have seen a substantial decline in their return on capital invested in recent years despite increasing profit margins, according to a new report.

The report by PricewaterhouseCoopers is published today to coincide with a top communications industry conference in London. A study of 30 of the largest entertainment and media groups by Brett Savill and John Studley, the consultants, found that between 1995 and 1997 the return on investment capital declined from 10.2 per cent to 8.3 per cent despite profit margins rising by 7 per cent.

The consultants say that the sales generated by the capital invested fell by 25 per cent — one dollar of capital in 1995 generated 91 cents of sales compared with only 69 cents in 1997.

"In manufacturing parlance, the sector has failed to make its assets sweat," the study argues.

CORPORATE PROFILE: *SA Breweries*

THE FACTS

Market cap: £4.4 billion.
Sales: $5.88 billion (£4.1 billion) in year to last March.
Operating profit: $707 million.
Employees: 48,000.
Overview: World's fourth-largest brewer by volume; 37 breweries in 18 countries. Brands include Castle, Lion and Lech. Southern Africa's biggest soft drinks group. Also has Southern Sun hotel and gaming arm.

THE BOARD

Graham Mackay, chief executive since 1996, joined SAB in 1978. He joined the board in 1990, becoming chief operating officer in 1994. Mr Mackay, 49, is also a director of Standard Bank South Africa and Standard Bank Investment Corporation.

The financial director is **Nigel Cox**, 51. He joined the SAB board in 1990, and was previously managing director of SABI, its international brewing division. Also on the board is **Malcolm Wyman**, 52, corporate finance and development director.

The non-executive chairman is **Meyer Kahn**, 59, who has worked for SAB since 1966. He is a former group managing director and has had a previous spell as chairman.

There are five divisional directors. **Norman Adami**, 44, is managing director of the South African beer division. The SABI group managing director is **Gerardus Goedhals**, 62. **Peter Lloyd**, 55, heads up SABI in Europe. The chairman of its beverages arm is **Michael Simms**, 50, while **Ron Stringfellow** is chairman of its hotel and gaming division.

The other non-executive directors are **Hugh Collum**, **Sir Robert Fellowes**, **Michael Levett**, **Miles Morland**, **Cyril Ramaphosa**, **Lord Renwick of Clifton**, and **Henry Slack**.

SOUTH African Breweries is the johnny-come-lately of the FTSE 100, having taken its place in the index only this morning together with Emap, Misys and Energis. Yet while SAB becomes the fourth brewer in the FTSE — joining Bass, Whitbread and Scottish & Newcastle — it is a very different animal compared with its rivals, having no ambitions to establish a presence in the UK.

SAB, which gained entry to the stock market elite after shifting its main listing from Johannesburg to London this month, is the world's fourth largest brewer by volume, behind Anheuser-Busch, Heineken and Miller. SAB intends to exploit its London listing to finance significant expansion internationally and secure an eventual place in the world's top three.

Although the group has been listed in London for more than a century — indeed, its principal listing moved to Johannesburg only in 1970 — its meteoric rise into the FTSE has put the whole issue of the index's make-up firmly in the spotlight. Billiton, the South African mining group, has been a constituent since 1997, and Old Mutual, the life insurance group, and Anglo American, another mining company, are expected to follow suit shortly. This South African invasion is a coup for London in its battle for global financial supremacy, but it means that the City's tracker funds are having to accept an increasing exposure to what is an emerging market.

Graham Mackay, SAB chief executive, is sensitive to charges that it has deserted South Africa, but is adamant that it was necessary. "We would have languished in South Africa and lost our growth prospects," he said. "There will be a lot of deals in this industry and we either have to take part or be a spectator."

One of the issues that Mr Mackay has had to address in the run-up to the London move is the investment baggage of the past. Johannesburg has long been dominated by big-name players, such as SAB, Anglo American and Gencor which, prevented from investing overseas, took big stakes in each other, making for a notoriously illiquid stock



SAB is the world's fourth largest brewer, producing the Castle and Lion beer brands. The latter sponsors the Springbok rugby union World Cup holders, right. A recent share price surge has allayed fears that its FTSE membership might be short-lived, but Graham Mackay, chief executive, left, has a difficult road ahead

market and creating groups with a broad range of investments and businesses. SAB has sought to unwind this situation by selling off non-core businesses ranging from department stores to a shoe manufacturer, but it still has some way to go. It still owns 68 per cent of PGSI, a glass business whose interests include Autoglass, the British windscreen replacement group, although a sale of the stake for about $200 million (£120 million) is imminent.

The sale would leave SAB a much cleaner vehicle from an investment point of view, although Mr Mackay hinted recently that the group may also end up spinning off Southern Sun, its hotel and gaming arm, which operates 75 hotels and owns the South African rights to the Holiday Inn and Inter-Continental brands. But the cross-investment of the past has left SAB with another legacy. While Anglo American and Johnnic have used the placing to offload their direct shareholdings, they still have an interest through Bevcon, SAB's biggest shareholder with 28.5 per cent. Last November Goldman Sachs was appointed to sell Bevcon's stake, approaching the likes of Heineken and Interbrew.

> **"The track record is one of international diversification [with] some degree of success in Africa but a poor record in Central and Eastern Europe. Given the risk that South Africa represents, we think that, at 550p, it looks 40 to 50 per cent overvalued."**
> Robert Cumming, drinks analyst, Dresdner Kleinwort Benson
>
> **"It's clearly a very good company, and over the last five years it has grown earnings by 80 per cent. But a UK investor would have significantly underperformed ... due to the currency situation."**
> Graham Eadie, drinks analyst, BT Alex Brown

As part of the listing, which raised £200 million in an institutional placing, Bevcon agreed not to sell up before January 2000 without SAB's consent, although the fact that it has failed to strike a deal suggests the price is too high.

There seems little doubt that the company is itself in the market for big acquisitions of its own — a must if it is to retain the interest of the global investment community. The problem is that 76 per cent of its profits are generated in South Africa, with a further 13 per cent coming from sub-Saharan Africa. While SAB dominates its home market, with a 98 per cent market share, the scope for growth is, inevitably, limited — particularly in the light of the country's recent economic woes, which have seen the rand almost halve in a year. GDP has shrunk from 3.1 per cent in 1997 to just 1.3 per cent last year, and any valuations of SAB relative to its UK peers have been tarnished by the much higher perceived downside. Its near monopoly status has also been the subject of scrutiny by the South African competition authorities, although an investigation into the company announced in June 1997 has not yet been resolved.

The prospects for growth rest largely with SABI, its international brewing arm, which expanded rapidly after the 1994 elections brought South Africa back into the international fold. Last year SABI, which has operations in several African countries as well as Poland, Spain, Hungary, Slovakia, Romania, Russia and China, lifted volumes by 25 per cent. It clearly has faith in the long-term potential of these markets as much of the £200 million raised is to be invested in its Eastern European operations.

But this exposure has left observers divided. On the one hand, SAB's presence in these emerging markets should bring higher growth prospects. Conversely, the risks are also higher, as evidenced by the recent writedown of most of its $95 million investment in a partially built brewery in Russia because of the deteriorating economy. One area in which SAB excels is in ethical expression. Integrity Works found SAB to be "amongst the best of the companies reviewed so far", giving staff access to an "ethics hotline". Its efforts were recognised by last year's award for corporate governance in South Africa.

Although it is still early days — and despite widespread City scepticism — SAB's shares have made a strong start, frothing from a notional 450p based on its Johannesburg price to 570p. But this has to be seen in the context of a dire share performance over the past 12 months, and the short-term squeeze caused by demand from tracker funds. But while the surge has allayed fears that its FTSE membership might be short-lived, Graham Mackay and his colleagues still have a long and difficult road ahead.

DOMINIC WALSH

OUR VERDICT

Ethical Expression¹ 8/10
Fat-cat quotient² 6/10
Financial record 8/10
Share performance 3/10
Attitude to staff 7/10
Strength of brand 6/10
Innovation 2/10
Annual report 6/10
City star rating 3/10
Future prospects 6/10
Total 55/100

Ethical expression is evaluated by ¹Integrity Works. The fat-cat quotient, in which best boardroom pay practice scores highest, is provided by ²Crisp Consulting.

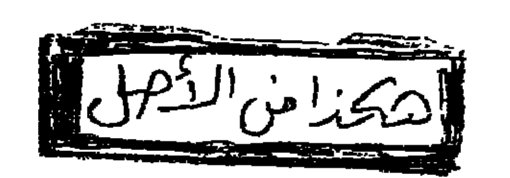
1998/99 High	Low	Mkt Cap (million)		Price pence	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
3¼	0½	2.40	10 Grp	1	...	...	...
191	74½	12.80	AFA Systems	101½	+ 9	...	...
133½	93½	12.30	AMCD Corp	95	...	8.4	...
157½	93½	6.17	ATA Group	95	...	7.6	7.7
271	175	42.00	Access Plus	250	+ 20	2.6	...
67½	44½	5.87	AdVal Group	44½		...	7.6
7¼	2	2.35	Alucan Gold	2¾	...		...
96½	36½	31.50	Albemarle & Bd	71	- ½	2.2	18.2
43½	24	9.41	Aluzyme	26½	+ ½	...	...
102	42½	14.20	Ambient Media	59½	+ 9	...	...
325	88½	7.09	Ambishus Pub Co	112½	...	...	14.5
108½	87½	32.90	Anglo Sibrn Oil	90½	- ½	...	...
119	72½	3.36	Anglo-Welsh	108½	...	3.5	8.9
117½	43½	33.80	Antonov	43½	- 9	...	...
110½	62½	15.90	Aortech	78½	...	...	...
100	80	4.42	Aram Resources	85	...	6.2	32.2
90	50	6.63	Arches Dedicated	65	...	...	...
5¾	3¼	2.77	Artisan (UK)	4	...	...	...
485	236½	99.30	Ask Central	437½	- 2½	0.3	38.7
72½	52½	1.00	Athelney Trust	55½	...	2.5	47.4
34¼	4½	13.70	Atlantic Caspian	7¾	+ ¼	...	...
68½	5½	4.56	Avalon Oil	6	...	...	...
314½	124	94.70	BATM Adv Comms	304½	+ 41½	1.0	...
238½	53½	12.30	BCO Technologies	68½	...	...	...
317½	130	24.20	BGR	155	- 7¾	1.5	16.9
3¾	1	0.92	Bakery Services	1¼	...	...	
2¾	1½	4.25	Beechcroft	2¼	...	2.8	13.4
3¼	1	5.81	Beaufort	3	...	2.8	59.6
44	26½	5.36	Bickerton	35	...	1.8	33.2
117½	48	0.78	Billam	49		13.5	...
53½	19½	1.78	Bilston Bitrsca	20	- 1	4.7	
1½	0¾	7.09	Blachin Inf	1¼		...	15.4
44½	30½	21.50	Birmingham City	43	+ 4	...	
67½	3	0.32	Blakes Cloth	3¼	- ¼	...	6.1
35½	27½	1.77	Boyod 'A'	30½		4.5	
156½	68	12.30	Bond Intl Soft	90½	- ¼	...	22.0
325	235	2.13	Bowness Leis	305		3.1	13.2
37¼	7¾	2.92	Brancote Hldgs	13	+ 1½	...	
105	60	2.52	Br Bloodstock	60	...	5.2	7.3
25½	4½	0.67	Buckland Inns	5½	- 3½	...	...
12	4	0.04	Buckland Inv Wts	5	- 1		
262	106	18.20	CA Coutts Hldgs	153	- 1	3.0	14.8
170	83	6.29	C & R Publishing	85			6.9
11½	7½	12.40	CCM Distribution	7½			12.9
79½	47½	3.19	CW Residential	72½		2.9	36.5
236	140	10.90	Cafe Inns	219	- 1½	1.9	16.5
60	40	5.54	Caledonian Tst	45			5.6
19	5¼	1.58	Cambridge Min Res	5½			
2½	2	3.59	Cambury Inv	2¼			35.9
1	0½	0.68	Cambury Inv Wts	0¾			
87½	29	40.80	Card Clear	29	- 6	1.1	
54½	35½	3.79	Carisbrooke Ship	37½	- 1	3.3	12.1
23	9¼	204.30	Carlisle	18	- ¼		47.4
55	32	1.76	Cassidy Bros	32		11.1	
13	3¼	2.00	Celebrated Group	3¼	- ¼		
106½	71½	21.60	Cl Comms(TV)	98½		3.4	17.4
66½	40	15.60	Charlton Athl	44	- ¼		
15	8¼	14.80	Charterhouse Cms	14¼		3.0	12.3
115	66½	129.40	Chelsea Village	81½	- 4		52.9
29	13¾	113.90	Chorion	22¾	- 1½	0.5	36.5
122½	95½	31.80	Citadel	96	3	2.3	59.9
82	25½	6.79	City Gourmets	32½			
173	85	0.99	Clan Homes	110			
28½	8½	9.76	Coffee Rep	10¼			
317½	117½	32.10	Comino	241		1.9	17.0
369	75	7.13	Computerland UK	77½	- 9	3.1	9.4
19½	12½	9.61	Concurrent Tech	13¼		1.8	20.7
46½	28	6.75	Conder Tst	30		5.0	11.2
149½	127½	14.50	Connaught	149½		4.3	11.9
3¼	1¼	1.95	Corporate Exec	1¼			
15½	1	0.43	Creos Intl	1			
153½	113½	5.79	Cresco Intl	113½			30.9
230	77½	1.68	Crown Eye	105		14.9	
42½	19½	6.02	Dalkeith Inns	29½			
207½	110	5.28	Dawn Til Dusk	110		4.5	9.3
5½	2	1.91	Deanes	2¼	+ ¼		
400	170	15.00	Deep Sea Leisure	337½			19.8
6¼	2½	7.39	Dentmaster	5	+ ¼	2.9	11.7

1998/99 High	Low	Mkt Cap (million)		Price pence	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
495	15½	8.75	Desire Petroleum	18½	+ 2	...	50.7
79½	52	7.86	Digital Anmtn	53½	...	...	...
32½	16½	10.30	Dimension Res	16½	...	...	...
18½	3½		Dimension Wrts	13	...	...	...
27½	16½	2.59	Dinkie Heel	17½	...	11.4	6.5
135½	79½	7.61	Delyn Group	87½	...	3.6	14.7
45	16½	5.55	Dmatek	29½	...	...	15.1
406	195	17.20	Dobbies Garden	260	...	2.4	14.3
30	19½	2.72	Domster	22½	...	5.9	...
263½	145	22.50	Dragons Health	187½	...	1.9	19.5
3¾	2	1.71	Drings of Bath	2	...	...	12.9
1225	217½	36.80	Durlacher	1225	+150	...	37.1
39½	34½	3.67	Eagle	37½	...	...	...
407	73½	82.70	Easynet	403½	+ 19½	...	...
330	100	22.80	Elec Retail Sys	107½	- 7½	...	...
103	69	20.50	Enterprises	75½	...	7.0	7.3
27½	11½	5.36	Epic Group	23	+ ½	...	23.6
95	27½	2.50	Eurasia Mining	30½	- 7	...	...
3¾	2½	4.92	Fairplace Cons	3¼	...	4.1	8.5
422	200	10.90	Farlake	420	- 1	1.2	17.8
82½	47½	11.70	Fayrewood	55½	...	2.8	9.7
103½	20½	4.33	Fieldens	85½	...	...	...
117½	57½	13.00	Firestone Dmds	57½	...	...	...
185	95	4.81	Flomerics	185	+ 5	1.8	...
102½	57½	7.56	Formscan	67½	...	5.7	8.3
188½	99½	11.50	Fountain Forestry	121½	...	12.6	17.1
205½	158½	12.40	Furlong Homes	187½	...	4.5	...
99½	24½	5.16	Future Int Telep	46½	- 2	...	...
301½	133½	15.00	GB Railways	171	+ 1	4.8	9.6
60	37½	6.60	GR Hldgs	50	...	2.5	14.3
12¾	4	15.70	GTL Res	9¾	...	...	...
179½	82½	74.80	Garland W&B	86	- 7½	7.6	4.7
35¾	12	31.60	Gold Mns Sard	23	- 2½	...	...
29½	19½	9.59	Golden Prospect	19½	- 6	...	73.2
70	15	10.70	Golf Club	22½	...	...	...
171½	111½	23.90	Gooch & Housego	141½	...	1.5	19.8
23	9	3.39	Griffin Mining	16	- 1	...	...
2¾	2	2.25	Grosmont Hldgs	2¼	...	...	23.5
1¼	0½	0.60	Grosmont Hldgs Wts	0½	...	...	...
15	7¾	1.93	Grosvenor Ltd	8	...	...	25.5
182	160	47.80	Guiton	161	...	3.7	13.6
6¼	3	2.11	Hansom	5½	...	...	26.7
255	135	23.20	Hardy Undrwtg	138	...	5.9	5.9
2¼	0¾	13.80	Hartford	1½	...	...	...
40	28	7.61	Hacas Group	29½	...	...	19.1
89½	44½	3.04	Hat Pin	67½	...	1.9	...
405	325	8.09	Heavitree	385		2.4	18.6
295	275	12.20	Heavitree A	290		3.2	14.0
105	55½	5.61	Helicon Pubg	95	...	...	...
145	52½	10.70	Highams Sys	56½	- 8½	2.2	9.5
135½	87½	8.32	Highland Timber	94½	+ 2	...	...
80½	56½	17.50	Honeycombe Leisure	77½	...	...	12.9
100	60	1.60	Hurlingham	100		1.2	...
97½	57½	3.85	Hydro-Dynamic	57½	+ 1¼	7.9	19.2
83½	19½	5.50	IES	23½	- 1½	...	...
330	145½	12.80	I S Solutions	267½	+ 5	1.0	30.7
737½	137½	158.60	Indpt Energy	607½	- 60	...	...
86½	51½	11.60	Indpt Radio	65	...	...	...
332½	32	21.40	Infobank Intl	85½	...	...	...
93½	17½	4.29	Inner Workings	17½	- 3	...	...
125	32½	0.84	Integrd As Mgt	32½	...	...	...
103½	24	25.40	Intelligent Env	80	+ 1½	...	...
487½	330	25.70	Inter-Alliance	467½	+ 2½	...	...
140	103	26.40	Interior Services	126½	+ 11½	3.1	10.4
119½	97½	5.39	Inter Link Foods	114½		2.2	9.7
189½	37½	70.30	Internet Tech	156½	+ 11½	...	...
647½	372½	93.50	Intl Greetings	605		1.9	17.1
172½	29½	15.20	IOC Intl	49	- ½	...	...
425	135¾	18.10	ITG Group	362½	- 23½	...	40.9
262½	170	23.70	JSB Software Tech	249	+ 1	...	...
97½	27½	5.67	James R Knowles	28½	- 1	7.0	9.7
49½	32½	3.30	Jardinene Ints	37½	...	...	10.1
416	222½	18.10	Jennings Bros	245	+ 15	4.3	10.9
4	1¼	2.91	J Lewis Hlord	2	...	6.8	14.7
62½	37½	8.12	Jordec	38½	...	...	7.7
46½	17½	3.74	Jumbo Intl	19	...	...	...
3	1	9.05	Just Group	2	...	...	...
42½	30½	3.74	Kent River	32½	+ 2	...	...

1998/99 High	Low	Mkt Cap (million)		Price pence	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
55½	11½	1.62	Keystone Soft	14½	...	...	...
25½	3		Keystone Wrts	4¼	+ 1¼	...	...
193½	136½	13.30	Kingfisher Ls	137½	...	2.1	14.0
55	38		LTG Technologies	38	...	...	7.5
260	95	6.25	Lady in Leisure	106	- 7	2.4	9.2
260	122½	8.32	Landround	185	+ 2½	3.4	15.3
427½	365	25.60	Lawrence	365	...	3.0	12.1
5750	3750	75.00	Lawrie Group	3950	-100	2.6	4.0
90¼	14½	1.71	Lepco	16	...	...	...
415	296½	73.70	Linton Park	374	+ 36½	7.8	4.4
495	305	6.10	Loades	305	...	0.5	...
31½	9½	4.60	Lotus Road	11½	...	...	...
10¾	6¼	3.40	Lond & Edin Pub	10¾	+ 1	...	11.1
125	75	3.98	London Town	75	...	3.8	5.1
51	7½	0.45	London Town Wts	45	...	...	...
191½	127½	4.67	Longbridge Intl	141½	...	4.2	11.6
144½	21½	1.21	Longmead	33½	+ 10	8.4	16.3
2	0½	1.75	Lotteryking	1	...	...	12.2
1	0¼	0.09	Lotteryking Wts	0½	...	...	...
50½	20½	6.16	MMS Petroleum	50½	+ 25½	...	...
1½	0¾	13.60	MV Sports	0¾	...	...	...
23¾	5½	6.87	Magnum Power	7¼	...	...	...
517½	267½	50.00	Majestic Wine	362½	...	1.8	21.8
14½	4	10.20	Mano River UK	14½	...	...	...
9½	4¼	4.34	Manx & O'seas	5½	...	...	...
55½	32½	4.81	Market Link Pb	32½	...	3.5	10.2
115	65	1.55	Matrix Hlthcare	67½	...	5.6	...
13¾	10¾	5.42	Mears Group	11½	+ ½	3.5	8.7
38½	17	29.70	Medisys	17¾	- ½	...	...
65½	19½	15.00	Megalomedia	20½	...	1.5	22.8
56½	11½	0.14	Megalomedia Wts	12½	...	...	...
65½	30½	6.35	Melloverts	43½	- 3	...	...
114½	100½	13.00	Metnor Group	102½	...	...	17.5
115	80	4.26	Metrodome	83½	+ 3½	...	...
191½	45½	43.50	Minorplanet	89½	- 2	...	...
106½	35	11.20	Mondas	88½	...	...	...
380	195	31.30	Moneypay	267½	...	2.8	...
124	50	3.91	Mountcashel	51½	...	...	4.2
70½	34½	8.93	Mulberry Group	42½	- 2½	4.4	...
3¾	2	2.07	MultiMedia	3	...	...	...
13¼	6¾	7.75	Murray Financial Corpn	7¾	...	...	...
110½	107½	5.90	NBA Quantum	110	...	...	11.2
15¼	8	0.59	NECA	8	...	3.1	...
71½	40½	26.90	NMT	68½	+ 1½	...	...
148	52½	11.10	NRP	148	...	...	36.0
375	160	38.80	Nsb Retail Sys	352½	+112½	0.6	...
225	135	10.70	NWF Grp	136	+ 1	7.2	6.8
195	140	10.20	Nash (Wm)	145	...	6.9	5.6
5½	3¾	4.19	Nat Bldg Mtls	4¼	...	...	...
105	105	2.10	Nat Bldg Prl	105	...	...	...
90	40½	12.80	Netcall	65	+ 2	...	...
80	80	1.52	Norhomes	80	...	...	24.8
25	7¾	0.39	Niho Petlm	1¾	...	...	...
80½	45½	2.87	Northstar Sec	45½	...	...	24.7
55½	17½	0.35	Northstar Sec Wts#	17½	...	...	...
27½	27½	13.80	Offshore Tool & Energy	27½	...	...	...
62½	50½	10.10	Old Mook Company	55½	...	...	15.1
285	12½	4.46	On Line	135	- 1½	...	...
227½	77	6.83	Optoplast	78½	...	2.4	13.2
27	7¾	32.40	Oxford Biomedica	22¾	+ 4¾	...	...
1¼	0½	8.02	Pacific Media	0½	...	...	...
39½	5¼	2.48	Pan Andean Res	5¼	- ½	...	...
32½	15¾	2.35	Parallel Pics	18½	+ 1	...	...
245	215	5.16	Park Ests(Lin)	215	...	6.0	14.6
18½	7½	5.62	Pathfinder Props	8	...	...	4.6
161½	77	10.50	Peel Hotels	161½	+ 8	...	...
21	5½	4.15	Pembertons	8½	...	...	...
183½	91½	8.48	Pennant Intl	128½	+ 2½	3.0	...
55½	34½	11.60	Personal No Co	43½	...	...	...
155	58½	23.20	Petra Diamonds	68½	- 3	...	...
122	42	0.74	Petra Dmnds Wt	44½	- 2½	...	...
30½	9	7.09	Philippine Gd	10½	...	...	25.8
62½	10	2.96	Pilat Tech	12½	- 1	12.0	4.1
247½	162½	34.80	Policy Master Grp	246½	...	...	57.2
297½	117½	30.60	PolyDoc	150	...	...	...
151½	38½	9.35	Polymasc Pharms	44½	+ 2	...	...
1½	0½	1.09	Pordum Foods	0½	...	...	...
1	0¾	0.16	Pordum Fds Wts	0¾	...	...	...

1998/99 High	Low	Mkt Cap (million)		Price pence	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
16	10½	12.50	Premier Asset Mgt	14¼	+ ¼	...	10.9
189½	160½	6.64	Premier Direct Grp	179½	- 10	...	5.8
7	2¼	120.00	Prestbury Group	3½	+ ¼	...	47.7
445	310	7.25	Preston Nth E	345	...	...	...
84½	62½	5.05	Private & Comm	81½	+ 2	0.7	13.3
260	255	8.93	Property & Cap	255	...	...	...
46½	6¾	9.13	Proteome Scies	11¾	- 1	...	...
57½	37½	1.39	Pubs n Bars	37½	- 12½	...	...
107½	47½	10.50	Pycraft & Arnold	67½	...	3.2	11.8
118½	65½	11.50	Q Group	65½	...	1.0	10.4
847½	214½	83.30	Ramco Egy	275	+ 10	...	63.2
10¾	6¼	11.10	Range Cooker	7	- ¼	2.5	6.7
137½	77½	13.90	Raphael ZH	93½	- 4	4.0	7.5
67½	14½	2.35	Recycling Servs	14½	...	...	13.2
19½	1½	0.52	Reflec	1¾	...	...	...
7	1¼	1.36	Revelation Pic	1¼	...	30.0	...
20½	5	3.29	Riceman Insce	5	...	...	...
111½	68½	3.63	Romtec	68½	...	2.9	...
357½	130	16.10	SBS	182½	- 20	2.2	14.7
152½	38	9.78	SCi Ent	77	+ 17½	...	...
110	34½	10.30	Salestore	46	+ 1	...	...
132½	112½	6.78	Savoy Asset Mgt	125½	...	4.2	13.7
243½	136½	35.80	Science Sys	210½	- 2	0.7	29.0
23	7½	1.62	Scotswood Inds	15¼	+ 2¼	...	...
3	0¾	1.97	Screen	0¾	...	...	...
42½	1½	0.49	Selector	2½	...	...	...
190½	113½	9.19	Shallbane	113½	...	5.1	6.2
87½	45½	2.41	Shelton (M)	45½	...	11.5	6.0
47½	3½	47.00	Sibir Energy	7	+ 2	...	...
4¼	2½	6.97	Sira Bus Serv	3	...	3.0	10.7
85½	10½	4.25	Sodra Petroleum	10½	...	...	...
72½	35½	2.87	Solid State Sp	45½	- 2	1.4	28.7
265	190½	10.60	Solitaire	230	...	3.3	21.0
62½	14½	6.21	Soundtracs	61½	- 1	0.9	36.4
3½	0½	1.47	South Beach Concepts	0¾	...	...	...
94½	45½	9.40	Southern Vectis	47½	+ 2	6.1	6.8
99½	54½	26.30	Sports & Out Media	85½	...	...	32.5
156	55½	11.80	Sports Internet	134½	+ 15	...	...
155	127½	8.39	Springboard Venture Managers	152½	...	...	...
950	137½	30.80	Statware	242½	+ 15	...	...
196	60	33.50	Stanford Rook	168½	- 13	...	...
196½	3½	3.33	Stentor	28½	+ 2	...	...
71½	2		Stentor Warrants	5½	...	...	...
103½	75	4.12	SupaRule	75	...	...	...
155	122	12.20	Sutton Harbour	122	- 3	3.6	18.3
43	4	3.12	Syst Integ Rsch	23¼	- 1¾	...	...
85½	47½	19.30	Systems Intl	56½	- 5	0.2	18.0
5¾	3½	5.49	Talisman House	3½	...	...	8.8
2	1	0.04	Talisman House Warrants	1	...	...	...
67½	20½	5.26	Theo Fennell	32½	...	...	35.0
5¾	4½	9.00	Thomas Potts	4½	...	0.5	10.6
41½	11½	1.70	Tom Hoskins	16½	- 1	...	10.7
117½	27½	5.23	Total Office	32½	+ 3½	6.9	...
145	93½	13.40	Touchstone Grp	137	+ 13½	0.3	19.8
70	13½	5.35	Tradepoint Fcl	18½	...	...	...
102½	47½	8.28	Tricorder Tech	54½	...	...	...
160	135	6.72	Trinity Care	140	...	4.8	12.7
200	141¼	5.69	UA Group	162½	+ 2¾	3.6	...
39½	38	3.59	Univent	39½	...	...	18.9
235	122	15.20	VDC	139	- 4¾	4.9	12.1
42½	6	20.50	Victory Corp	6½	...	...	...
341½	145	33.70	Virtual Internet	167½	- 1½	...	...
198½	41½	6.04	Voss Net	172½	+ 94½	...	...
85½	26½	8.75	WML	30½	- 1½	...	29.9
5	1½	2.59	Weeks Group	1¾	- ¼	7.9	7.6
87	42	3.38	West 175 Enter	61½	+ 8	...	...
£145	9500	7.66	West Bromwich	£105	...	...	12.1
13½	7¾	3.59	Western Selectn	8¼	...	3.8	27.4
4½	1½	0.11	Western Sel Wts	1¼	...	...	...
300	17½	1.96	Westmount Engy	17½	...	...	...
85	60	5.10	Willington	60	...	10.0	2.4
2¾	2¼	2.46	Wilmslow Group	2½	...	...	...
112½	55½	12.50	Winchester	92½	- 5½	...	48.4
205	55	16.30	World Telecom	65	- 1	...	...
150	135	4.32	Wynnstay Props	135	...	4.9	16.3
170	111½	1.91	XKO	159	+ 10	...	...
27½	5½	27.10	Xavier Comp	27½	...	...	26.3
88½	51½	3.91	Yeoman	51½	...	...	...
7	3	0.69	Zicor Mining	3	...	...	...

هكذا من الأصل



Prospects hinge on unemployment


ROGER BOOTLE

Eurosceptics are having a good year. After *the* softness of the euro on the exchanges came the shock resignation of Oskar Lafontaine and then the mass resignation of the European Commissioners. But they should beware. They have now lost some of their best advertisements. It is to the *economy* that they should now be directing their attention, for Europe is approaching a turning point.

Euroland's consumers are now more confident than they have been for many a long while. Two years ago, consumer spending was barely rising at all, and in the dark days of 1993 and 1994 it actually fell. This year, real incomes are set to rise by some 3 per cent and you could readily envisage consumers increasing their spending at that sort of rate.

So why the anxiety about the European economy and the continued pressure on the ECB to cut interest rates? Because industry is in a very different position. As consumer confidence has risen so business confidence has plummeted. The weakness of international demand after the crisis in East Asia severely hit exports. The economies of euroland are by no means all in the same boat. Some are still growing strongly. But German business has suffered particularly badly, owing to its heavy reliance on exports and its high weighting of manufactures, especially capital goods and big ticket consumer goods.

Moreover, the very factors that have helped consumer spending have hit business. Real wages have been rising smartly because of the fall in euroland inflation. At the latest count (and new figures are due out this week), inflation across the EU is running at 0.8 per cent. In Ireland, and some of the other fast-growing countries, it is a good deal higher, but in Germany, it is only 0.2 per cent.

Admittedly, some of this remarkable inflation performance is due to the benefits of low commodity prices which reflect pain felt by producers outside Europe. But a good part is a direct result of the pain experienced by European producers, who are now finding it very difficult to raise prices.

And to that extent there is trouble in store. Rising real incomes do not necessarily betoken economic success. Indeed the Depression of the 1930s was accompanied by rising real wages — for those who kept their jobs. In core Europe, real wages are already too high. The fact that they are rising at a time when many companies face serious pressures should be a cause for worry, not celebration.

For companies will adjust to excessive real incomes by reducing employment. It is on this issue that the fate of the euro, and much else besides, will turn. Somehow the gap between the experience of consumers and producers will have to be reduced. One way would be if European consumers aped their American counterparts and reduced their saving in order to finance a serious spending spree. This could create enough of an increase in domestic demand to offset the weakness of world markets. This might then bolster industrial confidence sufficiently to boost investment spending and to forestall an increase in unemployment. This might then begin a self-feeding process of real recovery.

Recovery could also be bolstered by a further weakening of the euro. This would *not* only improve European trade performance but it would also help to reduce real wages. This would not, though, have the same effects on the rest of the world. Indeed, it would simply represent another stage in the game, which has been played by a wide variety of countries since 1992, of passing on uncompetitiveness to someone else — with the US picking up the tab. But as the US current account deficit continues to widen and trade tensions increase, this would be an extremely dangerous, and perhaps ultimately self-defeating, way for Europe to achieve recovery.

The other way for the gap between the perceptions of consumers and producers to be reduced would be for unemployment to increase. This would not only represent a way for companies to adapt to weak demand and high costs but it would also eventually rein in consumer ebullience.

But wasn't the advent of the euro supposedly going to launch a series of supply-side improvements that would enhance prosperity and create jobs? All along, this argument has been a confidence trick. If the euro does indeed succeed in bringing benefits through greater price transparency and an intensification of competition, the short-run effect will be to heighten the difficulties faced by companies and to increase the pressures to shed labour.

Perhaps in the wake of last week's shenanigans, not only will there be a real improvement in the governance of the EU but this will accelerate the pace of reform of the European labour market. The fact that Europe is so far behind in the reform stakes does give some cause for optimism — the scope for real improvement is enormous. But as experience in Britain, Japan, China and Russia has shown, reform programmes involve an initial period of dislocation during which unemployment is liable to increase sharply.

Perhaps euroland's consumers will continue to increase spending sharply despite all this gloom about employment prospects. That would not only be good for Europe but it would also see Europe doing its bit for the world economy, thereby easing growing trade tensions with the US. For the result would be a significant increase in Europe's imports and a reduction in its large current account surplus, thereby providing the counterpart to the necessary expansion in net exports from East Asia. Let us hope that this is what happens. My suspicion, though, is that rising unemployment will soon dent the European consumer's new-found optimism.

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Railtrack plans £2bn schemes to cut delays

By Arthur Leathley, Transport Correspondent

RAILTRACK will this week unveil more than £2 billion of new profit-sharing schemes with train companies as part of its plans to cut passenger delays.

A £27 billion package of track and station improvements will mark a shift towards closer links with train operators, with Railtrack being paid according to service improvements.

The largest revenue-sharing project will be a £1.5 billion scheme to end congestion on the increasingly overworked London to Edinburgh route. Railtrack will undertake the investment but will take a share in future revenue on the route run by Great North Eastern Railway.

Railtrack is to set out details of its plans to remove bottlenecks at Peterborough and Hitchin and improvements to stations at York, Leeds, Edinburgh and Newcastle.

Railtrack is under heavy pressure from ministers to increase its investment after criticism from Chris Bolt, the Rail Regulator, that it has failed to shrug off its "boring utility" role by taking sufficient risks.

The £27 billion spending programme, over ten years, represents a £10 billion increase on past promises, although it includes money being spent by Railtrack on the £5.4 billion Channel Tunnel rail link.

The company will also announce a range of improvements to provide better services to Britain's major airports, after calls from ministers to develop better public transport links.

About £200 million is to be pumped into the Stansted airport link with London's Liverpool Street station, offering trains every 15 minutes — twice as frequently as at present.

Lines to Manchester and Birmingham airports will also be improved and new links developed between Heathrow and St Pancras station in North London.

The London-to-Brighton line will receive £150 million of improvements, also aimed at easing bottlenecks on the route operated by Connex, the French group.

It is expected that these will include new tracks near Victoria station in London.

The proposals will be revealed in Railtrack's 340-page Network Management Statement, due to be published on Thursday.


Lounge leopard: Clive, the feline smoothie fronting a new advertising campaign being launched today for Schweppes

Big cat's tonic for you know who

By Jason Nissé

CLIVE, a suave leopard who drinks gin and tonic, is to star in a new advertising campaign for Schweppes, the soft drinks group.

The leopard will hold forth on the stresses and strains of life in the Serengeti while cooling off in a cocktail lounge, in a campaign devised by Young & Rubicam, the advertising agency, and launched today.

Schweppes, part of Cadbury Schweppes, hopes that Clive will become as identified with Schweppes as William Franklin, who fronted its "Sch . . . you know who" campaign in the 1970s and 1980s.

The Clive campaign, which will also run in the US, Australia and New Zealand, uses new technology that makes it appear that the leopard is talking. "It is a pioneering piece of work that is certain to create a *huge impact*," said Andrew Mann, Schweppes's UK marketing director.

One-call service by Scoot

Members of the public who call Scoot, the telephone directory service, to find a plumber or an hotel will no longer have to scrawl down the number and make a second phone call.

Scoot has teamed up with Energis, the telecoms network, to provide a new service that will connect inquirers directly to a suitable business.

Businesses will pay Scoot a fee for each "introduction". Scoot, which has slimmed down its sales force from 300 to 160 in anticipation of the change, will also try to sell them calls through Energis.

Al Fayed denial

Mohamed Al Fayed has denied that he has any intention of selling Harrods, the Central London department store — and has threatened to sue anyone suggesting otherwise. He said that Bernard Arnault, chairman of LVMH, will also deny that his luxury goods company has any designs on Harrods.

La Glacerie gets £1m

La Glacerie, a Kentish ice-cream maker, has been given a £1 million cash injection by 3i, the venture capital company. The cash will be used to build a 16,500 sq ft ice-cream factory near Ashford, Kent. In the year to June 1998, La Glacerie's profits were up 51 per cent to £159,000 on sales up 47 per cent to £959,000.

NFF buys rival

Northumbrian Fine Foods has bought its rival, Ideal Bakeries, for £2.1 million. It has bought the assets of Evans Group and Hafren Wholesale, two insolvent companies where PricewaterhouseCoopers is the administrator.

Sainsbury's switches £1bn of funds

MERCURY Asset Management, the fund manager owned by Merrill Lynch, has been dealt a massive blow by J Sainsbury, which has completed the withdrawal of £1 billion worth of funds from MAM.

The supermarket group is moving £300 million invested by MAM in UK equities to an index fund run by Hermes Liberty Investment Management, the tracking fund run by the former Post Office pension scheme. The deal brings the amount of money managed for Sainsbury's by Hermes to £600 million.

The agreement completes the withdrawal of £1 billion of the £1.4 billion Sainsbury's had managed by MAM. What remains is divided between fixed interest and global equities.

Geof Pearson, pension manager for Sainsbury's, said that the £1 billion had been invested in UK equities and that MAM had lost the mandate because its funds had underperformed the market.

"The withdrawal was gradual in the hope that the performance would improve, but it didn't," Mr Pearson said.

The beneficiaries of the move are not only Hermes but also Legal & General and State Street, the US fund manager. Both are specialists in index-tracker funds.

Sainsbury's pension fund is worth more than £2.5 billion and is now predominantly invested in passive index-tracking funds.

MAM has lost a series of high-profile mandates since the fund manager was bought by Merrill Lynch for £3.1 billion in November 1997.

It was one of the star performers through the late Eighties and early Nineties but, like rivals such as Phillips & Drew, the fund manager, and Gartmore, its bearish stance while the market has been rising has seen its performance suffer.

Go-ahead expected for Lonmin's £1bn merger

By Jason Nissé

THE European Court is expected to give a green light this week to a £1 billion merger between Lonmin, the mining company that has just changed its name from Lonrho, and Impala Platinum (Implats), the big South African metals group.

Plans to bring the two platinum companies together have been on the agenda since the early 1990s, when Implats's then owner, Gencor, entered into talks with Lonrho.

The European Commission had ruled that any merger could have created too much concentration in the supply of platinum and palladium, metals used heavily in the car industry, particularly for catalytic converters.

The Commission later ruled that Anglo American, the South African conglomerate, had to reduce the 30 per cent share it took in Lonrho as the battle to control the platinum market intensified. An appeal was lodged against both decisions. The European Court is set to rule this week — though the Anglo ruling is now out of date as Anglo sold its shares back to Lonmin last year.

However, Sir John Craven, chairman of Lonmin, indicated that the company would be exploring the possibility of a deal with Implats if the regulators allowed it.

HoF looks at opening City store

By Sarah Cunningham

THE City of London, which has the best-paid workforce in the country but surprisingly few big shops, could at last see a department store opening in its midst.

House of Fraser, which opened its latest store at the Bluewater shopping centre in Kent last week, is talking to at least two property developers about opening a store in the Square Mile.

John Coleman, chief executive, said: "We are in talks with a couple of developers and see the City as one of 25 sites around the country where we'd like to have a store. This comes with the usual health warning about the right site, terms and so on."

King Sturges, the property consultant, is acting on behalf of one developer and has identified a site where it hopes to build a £300 million development containing about 200,000 square feet of retail and restaurant space, with room for 20 smaller units as well as a department store, and office space.

Opec ministers poised to ratify cuts in oil output

By Martin Barrow

OIL markets face a nervous 24 hours as Opec ministers prepare to meet in Vienna tomorrow to ratify an agreement on significant production cuts.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries will be asked to seal an accord reached earlier this month in The Hague for a supply cut of 1.7 million barrels per day (bpd). Non-Opec suppliers have also pledged cuts of almost 290,000 bpd.

Dealers expect the accord to be endorsed by Opec, with some hoping that ministers will be able to extract promises of further production cuts from other Opec nations that have so far refused to assist.

The initial scepticism over the pact made at The Hague may have given way to expectations of higher prices later this year, but oil buyers remain comfortably protected by stockpiles. Traders are now looking for evidence that restraint will drain a hefty global stock excess, estimated to be as high as 500 million barrels. World markets consume about 75 million barrels per day.

In London, the benchmark Brent futures ended last week at about $13.36 a barrel, almost 40 per cent above last year's lows of less than $10. However, prices remain little changed from last year's average of $13.34, the lowest average for more than 20 years. Low prices are estimated to have cost Opec more than $50 billion in lost revenue.

The agreement signed in The Hague was led by Saudi Arabia, the world's largest producer, and backed by Algeria and Iran. The Saudis, who produce 8 million bpd, quickly told Far East customers that deliveries would fall by 11 per cent. The deal also involved non-Opec Mexico.



Protesters at the Crystal Palace site have made common cause with thousands of neighbours who are using the courts to try to halt the developers

Swampy joins forces with lawyers and insurers

Anna Minton explores a growing trend among environmental protesters to use changes in our legal set-up to fight developers in Middle England

Manchester Airport, Costain and Wimpey may have felt the full force of environmental protesters such as Swampy trying to block thier construction work by direct action such as tunnelling under the sites. But *developers these days* are more likely to come up against Storm, the mobile-phone wielding co-ordinator of the largest environmental protest to target commercial property.

The eco warriors at Big Willow Eco Village in South London — otherwise known as the Crystal Palace site of a proposed 20-screen multiplex and *leisure box — are pulling no* punches. "Screen 1 — Pollution and Murder. Screen 2 — Corruption and Greed" scream *their* banners.

But though the eco warriors, dug into their tunnels, are getting the lion's share of publicity as Bromley council attempts to evict them, it is the unprecedentedly professional local campaign that is worrying developers and sending a warning light to an industry that is hoping to follow government direction and develop on inner city sites.

A world away from the eco warriors, in the rarefied atmosphere of the chambers of Anthony Scrivenor, QC, is barrister and Bromley resident Philip Kolvin. Mr Kolvin is leading the campaign of "professional resistance" that is taking litigation against the council all the way to the House of Lords.

As a planning barrister Mr Kolvin is well placed to ferret out every loophole that could *block the development.*

But with 1,500 volunteers working databases and a grid of area co-ordinators and street representatives, it is clear that he is not the only force behind the campaign, which has already taken Bromley to the High Court and the Court of Appeal.

On top of massive local sup*port — one elderly resident* pledged £20,000 at a public meeting — the legal campaign is fronted by another barrister, Michael Fordham, currently acting against Augusto Pinochet, and Leigh Day, the firm of solicitors, best known for their campaigns to win compensation for Japanese prisoners of war and their unsuccessful battle for compensation for smokers from Gallaher and Imperial, the tobacco companies.

Last month Leigh Day was in the Court of Appeal again, this time representing the Alliance Against the Birmingham Northern Relief Road. "My job is to shake up complacent public bodies which make decisions people don't like," says Richard Stein, a Leigh Day partner.

But local donations, however generous, would hardly be enough to finance such a high-profile legal team, and here Mr Kolvin reveals his trump card: the Bromley cam*paign has been underwritten* by an insurance company.

"A number of insurance companies are now operating in the field of judicial review and one of them was prepared to underwrite a sum relating to our costs; therefore we can afford to take a lot of legal action," he says.

This new breed of insurance *companies, described as "first* after the event insurers", have sprung up in response to the Access to Justice Bill and the Government's planned reform of legal aid.

Bernard Clark, underwriting director at First Legal Indemnity and a lawyer who worked in the BCCI liquidation, believes that, as a result, insurance will be used more and more in all civil litigation *cases with limited risk* — including those such as Kolvin's which would not have been eligible for legal aid.

He says: "Environmental protesters with a strong case are a good example of a group of people who will now be able to use insurance to assist them with litigation."

Mr Kolvin agrees that it is the recent changes in the insurance market that have enabled his campaign to take this level of legal action. "We would never have got legal aid, but now *the Government has* encouraged the insurance market to pick up the gap left by legal aid there is a new opportunity for this type of litigation," he explains.

But just in case the legal thrust proves insufficient, the campaign is also targeting potential occupiers of the site. Last week letters landed on the *desks of cinema operators* from Virgin to UCI making it clear that, should the scheme go ahead, the protest, ranging from a *local* boycott to demonstrations outside operator headquarters, will continue. Meanwhile, a demonstration in Trafalgar Square and a march on Downing Street are planned for next Thursday.

Not *surprisingly* the strength of feeling has affected London & Regional, the developer, which has lost more than *£1 million as a result of the* judicial review which held up the granting of detailed permission.

Initially, the scheme was supposed to be completed by March next year. Now, Jim O'Donnell, the project manager, hopes to be on site by September, assuming that the council evictions go according to plan.

But although he believes that the £58 million scheme, which has now received de*tailed permission, will go* ahead, he accepts that there is a risk that the campaign may yet succeed. And he adds that *had he known* at the outset what he knows now he would have had second thoughts.

"It's been a very painful process, for all sides. The campaigners are professional, they're thoughtful and they do have legal counsel," says Mr O'Donnell.

Worryingly for the industry he feels the "professional resistance" seen at Crystal Palace is not unique and will be replicated around the country. "We're going to see this again and again. It will be used to the detriment of progress and the implications for property companies will be cost penalties and loss of interest," he says.

And he's not the only one who is becoming increasingly concerned. Nigel Smith, chairman of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors' land use panel says: "We're going to see more eco-dweebs and middle class 'I know my rights' people targeting high-profile sites and becoming a damned nuisance or local heroes depending on the circumstances.

"The whole planning pro*cess is pretty negative. This is one more thing developers will* have to contend with. If you know you're going to be facing it, you probably won't get *involved.*"

Another indication of the increase in professional resistance is the rise of "planning lobbyists", employed by developers and local authorities to ensure that controversial applications have the best chance of success. Jenny Marshall, of Camargue, the planning lobbyists, describes her work as *"piecing together the jigsaw* puzzle of local reaction".

The schemes that arouse the most effective local opposition are the superstore applications which now virtually expect to have local communities mobilised against them. Earlier this year Tesco tried to win planning permission to build on a disused site in Clapham South but came up against a local campaign, which produced a traffic impact study to block the application.

"We *find out who the key* groups are, who the key players are on the council and if branches of environmental groups such as Friends of Earth are active in the area," Ms Marshall explains.

For a sector that hardly existed a few years ago, planning lobby*ing — presuming it* escapes the taint of its Westminster cousin — looks likely to be a growth area. "We're get*ting more work every year as* sites get harder and harder to develop and the opposition becomes more sophisticated," *she says.*

Stuart Robinson, planning partner with Hillier Parker, the surveyor, has also found his clients increasingly concerned about local reactions. "This comes through when end users are comparing sites. The companies we deal with are concerned as much with public image as with the value of a site.

"It's frightening but these *protests will continue. We've* all got to look at brownfield sites now and they've got problems. Protest has had an impact on road building. It's going to have an impact on city centre sites as well as residential development," he says.

Which means the unlikely alliance between the eco warriors and Middle England, forged over the roads protests, looks set to continue, this time with property in the firing line."

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 37

FEASANCE
(a) The doing or execution of a condition, obligation, feudal service, etc. And adaptation of the Anglo-French fesance. "Under this term [Gavel] were comprehended all Socage Services whatsoever which lie in Render or Feasance."

GRADUS
(a) Short for *Gradus ad Parnassum* "a step to Parnassus", the Latin title of a dictionary of prosody until recently used in English public schools, intended as an aid in Latin versification, both by giving the quantities of words and by suggesting poetical epithets and phraseology. Hence applied to later works of similar plan and object. You can also have a Greek Gradus. Hughes, *Tom Brown*, 1857: "The three fell to work with Gradus and dictionary upon the morning's vulgus."

FITTEN
(c) An untruth, a lie, an invention. The suggestion that it is a corruption of *fiction* is inadmissible. The form coincides curiously with the corruption of Latin *python* found in various Teutonic languages. "Others of them may well be deemed fittens of his own framing."

GRISON
(b) A carnivorous quadruped of South America, *Gallictis vittata*, *belonging to the family Mustelidae, and thus allied to the* glutton and marten. Apparently related to similar words meaning grey. Both animals are grey.

SOLUTION TO THE WINNING MOVE
1 Qf6! Bf8; 2 Bxf8 Rxf8; 3 Rxh7! Kxh7; 4 Re3 and mates.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US Dollar
1.6292 (–0.0046)
Euro
0.6707 (–0.0009)
Exchange Index
102.8 (–0.3)
Bank of England oficial close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
3753.4 (–79.4)
FTSE 100
6163.2 (–119.0)
New York Dow Jones
9903.55 (+27.2)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
16378.78 (+889.92)

TELEVISION CHOICE

Rewriting naval history

To the Ends of the Earth
Channel 4, 8pm

We all know the story of the sadistic Captain Bligh and how Fletcher Christian and the sailors on the *Bounty*, under his command, set him adrift in an open boat while they sailed on with their Tahitian women to discover and settle Pitcairn Island. That was in 1790. Today the island is sparsely populated with descendants of that voyage — including Christian's great, great, great grandson Tom, who believes, with good reason, that his ancestor died in a massacre there around 1793. So much for the *received wisdom that he died having escaped to* Europe. Dr Martin Gibbs and a team of Australian archaeologists go digging — not just into old journals and logbooks but under the soil and rocks of Pitcairn itself. Their astonishing account of what really happened rewrites the history books.

Cutting Edge: Playing for England
Channel 4, 9pm

No, not football but brass. This is the story of how nine Sheffield Wednesday fans got together to *form* a brass band. Eight lads and one girl, with trumpets tootling, trombones sliding and drums thudding, were chosen to accompany the England team to France last summer for the World Cup. Sponsored by *The Sun*, they had free flights, match tickets and all expenses paid. They couldn't believe their luck. Then came the riots in Marseilles, England's failure to win key matches, and grumbles of dissent could be heard in the band. "*One minute you're right up there, the next you're* nothing," says band member Jimmy, sadly.

Kavanagh QC: Time of Need
ITV, 9pm

Andy de la Tour's script does not, for a change, kick the courtroom series into overdrive with a violent opening. It merely begins with the *re-election of a Labour MP (Penelope Wilton)*, a career politician destined for great things in the Home Office. What makes this excellent episode the more chilling is that it reflects possible police connivance in "getting even" with a campaigning liberal who has been critical of them while in office. Now they seem out to disgrace her by accusing her of sexual assault on a juvenile 16 years ago. The cards are stacked against her when the lad, now adult, gives his evidence in court. Kavanagh (John Thaw) advises her to drop the case but she refuses.

Playing for England follows the official *supporters'* band to France 98 (C4, 9pm)

You Cannot Be Serious
BBC2, 9.30pm

A new series for Alexei Sayle which looks at some of the funniest television sketches as they relate to specific scenes. Tonight it's war with the irrepressible Alexei commenting on the likes of *Dad's Army*, *It Ain't Half Hot Mum* and *'Allo 'Allo*. Not all slapstick of course — there were genuinely inspirational sketches in *Blackadder*, *The Two Ronnies* and *Monty Python*. "War wasn't really good for very much," Sayle concludes. "But it certainly provided some cracking TV comedy." All very well, of course — until you realise that later *this week another new series (Laughter in the House)* begins on the BBC. About the history of the British sitcom. **Elizabeth Cowley**

RADIO CHOICE

Around the Word
Radio 4, 9.45am

The Word is the first *international literature* festival to be staged in London and Radio 4 is giving it plenty of airtime this week, which is exactly what a public service broadcaster ought to be doing. *Around The Word* runs every morning, preceded today by a special edition of *Start the Week*. *Around the Word* features new work by a different writer each day, starting today with *My Journey to Speer* by Gitta Sereny, well known to readers of *The Times* for the serialisation of her book about Mary Bell. Doris Lessing, Wole Soyinka, Ariel Dorfman and Jan Morris are also contributing stories. *Book at Bedtime* (10.45pm) this week features five festival writers, starting tonight with *Angel on the Hoof* by Shirley Hughes.

Jazz Notes
Radio 3, 11.30pm

This is a series whose strength lies in the fact that it serves every taste and rarely succumbs to the dictates of fashion (or the strictures of the musical fashion police) so that tonight we get half-an-hour of unashamed joy in the shape of the first half of a gig (part two goes out tomorrow night) by George Melly and John Chilton's Feetwarmers. Chilton's happy band were literally and figuratively behind the relaunch of Melly's career more than 30 years ago and they have been playing together, in everything from pubs to concert halls, ever since. This is jazz fit to confound people who think they don't like jazz as well as proof that Melly, though rightly regarded as a bit of a character, is also a very good singer. **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Jo Whiley **2.00pm** Mark Radcliffe **4.00** Chris Moyles **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Dave Pearce **8.00** Lamacq Live. Featuring Kula Shaker in concert from Wolverhampton **12.00** The Breezeblock **2.00am** Emma B **4.00** Clive Warren

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **12.00** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Ed Stewart **5.05** Johnnie Walker **7.00** Humphrey Lyttelton **8.00** Big Band Special **8.30** Jools Holland *9.30 Mark Lamarr: Shake, Rattle and Roll (9/10)* **10.30** Richard Allinson **12.00** Katrina Leskanich **3.00am** Mo Dutta

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** Breakfast with Julian Worricker and Victoria Derbyshire **9.00** Nicky Campbell **12.00** The Midday News **1.00pm** Ruscoe and Co **4.00** Drive with Peter Allen and Jane Garvey **7.00** News Extra **7.30** Dream Teams. Hunter Davies, author of *The Glory Game*, talks about his time as a Tottenham Hotspur supporter **8.00** Teenage Fan Club. An opportunity for young football fans to voice their opinions about the modern game **10.00** Late Night Live **1.00am** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boys Breakfast **9.00** Scott Chisholm & Sally *James 12.00 Let's Talk Soap 1.00pm Anna Raeburn 4.00* The Sports Zone **7.00** Under the Posts **8.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

VIRGIN

6.30am Chris Evans **9.30** Russ Williams **1.00pm** Nick Abbot **4.00** Harriet Scott **6.45** Pete and Geoff **10.00** Gary Davies **1.00am** Richard Allen **4.30** Phil Kennedy

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today **7.00** World News **7.15** This Woman Thing **7.55** My Century **8.00** World News **8.05** Record News **8.20** Off the Shelf: Enduring Love **8.35** Health Matters **9.00** World News **9.05** Westway Access **9.20** The Vintage Chart Show **9.50** Sports Round-Up **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** Britain Today **10.45** The Farming World **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Pick of the World **12.00** World News **12.05pm** Outlook **12.45** Sports *Round-Up* **1.00** Newshour **2.00** World News **2.05** Health Matters **2.30** On Screen **3.00** World News **3.05** Sports Roundup **3.15** Record News **3.30** Composer Of the Month **4.00** World News **4.15** Insight **4.30** Multitrack: Hit-List **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sports *Round-Up 6.00 World News 6.15 Britain Today 6.30 Warm* World **7.00** World News **7.05** Health Matters **7.30** Clouded Hills **7.45** Off the Shelf: Enduring Love **8.00** Newshour **9.00** World News **9.05** World Business Report **9.20** Britain Today **9.30** On Screen **10.00** World News **10.15** Sports Round-Up **10.30** Multitrack: Hit-List **11.00** World News **11.05** Outlook **11.45** Insight **12.00** The World Today **12.30am** Health Matters **12.55** My Century **1.00** The World Today **1.30** Westway **1.45** Record News **2.00** The World Today **2.30** Warm World **3.00** The World Toda y **3.20** Sports Round-Up **3.30** World Business Report **3.45** Insight **4.00** The World Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast. Favourite musical works, plus regular information updates **8.00** Henry Kelly. The Hall of Fame Hour and CD of the Week **12.00** Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones presents listeners' favourites **2.00pm** *Concerto. Dohnanyi (Konzertstuck for Cello and Orchestra)* **3.00** Michael Mappin. Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romance **6.30** Newsnight. John Brunning presents the latest stories **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven. Two hours of soothing sounds **9.00** Evening Concert. Sinding (Rustle of Spring). Copland (Applachian Spring); Haydn (The Seasons, Spring), Stravinsky (The Rite of Spring); Gurney (Desire in Spring) **11.00** Mann at Night. Wind down with the sound of ambient music **2.00am** Concerto. Dohnanyi (Konzertstuck for Cello and Orchestra) (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths with the Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air Presented by Penny Gore
9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday
10.30 Artist of the Week: The Labeque Sisters
11.00 Sound Stories: Islands Richard Baker *explores* the influence of Java and Bali on western music
12.00 Composer of the Week: Franz Schubert
1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Live from the Wigmore Hall. Joseph Kalichstein, piano
2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Grant Llewellyn and Tadaaki Otaka
4.00 Opera In Action Robert Lloyd takes a personal look at what being a singer actually means
4.45 Music Machine with Tommy Pearson (r)
5.00 In Tune Sean Rafferty is joined by the young American baritone Nathan Gunn
7.30 Performance on 3: Composer Portrait — **Frederick Delius (Sounding the Century)** Lisa Milne, soprano, Ashley Holland, baritone, BBC *Symphony Orchestra under Sir Andrew Davis* Delius (Dance Rhapsody No 1); Delius (Prelude and Idyll: Once I passed through a populous city for soprano, baritone and orchestra) **8.25** Delius (Four Old English Lyrics for voice and piano). Delius (North Country Sketches for orchestra)
9.15 Postscript: The Body Politic Iwan Russell-Jones looks at attitudes to the body in our culture (1/5)
9.40 Tchaikovsky (Three Pieces, Op 9) Viktoria Postnikova, piano
10.00 Voices Sarah Walker talks to Iain Burnside
10.45 Mixing It with Mark Russell and Robert Sandall
11.30 Jazz Notes Alyn Shipton presents the first of a two-part concert by George Melly . See Choice
12.00 Composer of the Week: Richard Strauss *(r)*
1.00am Through the Night

RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast
5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day
5.47 Farming Today Presented by Charlotte Smith
6.00 Today with James Naughtie
9.00 Start the Week: Radio 4 at The Word
9.45 (FM) Serial: Around The Word See Choice
9.45 (LW) Daily Service
10.00 Woman's Hour with Martha Kearney and guests
11.00 Tuning Into Children Last in series (6/6)
11.30 King of Bath Comedy by Arnold Evans (5/6)
12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
12.00 (FM) News 12.04pm You and Yours
1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke
1.30 Counterpoint Final of the music quiz
2.00 The Archers Yesterday's edition (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play: Sunday Morning at the Centre of the World Louis de Bernieres's tale
3.00 Money Box Live: 0870 010 0444
3.30 The New Recruit (1/5) (r)
3.45 This Sceptred Isle Part 56 (r)
4.00 The Food Programme with Derek Cooper (r)
4.30 Turning World with Jenni Murray and guests
5.00 PM Presented by Chris Lowe and Clare English
6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Just a Minute
7.00 The Archers 7.15 Front Row
7.45 The Cry of the Bittern Broadcast earlier (r)
8.00 Men In Black (2/3)
8.30 Analysis with Bridget Rosewell
9.00 Nature Nick Baker celebrates the arrival of spring
9.30 Start the Week: Radio 4 at The Word (r)
10.00 The World Tonight
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Radio 4 at The Word — Angel on the Roof See Choice
11.00 Late Night on 4: Muse of Fusion
11.30 (FM) Crossing Over (r)
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament Political news
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089.
Television and radio listings compiled by Perry Cleveland-Peck, Ian Hughes, Gillian Maxey, Jane Gregory and Barry O'Keefe





Comedy, community and that man Clary

"A woman's comedy is like a fish riding on a bicycle," as Dr Johnson might have said. "It is not done well, but you are surprised to find it done at all." And if he had said it, he would have been jolly well wrong.

It was surprising that so much of the pre-broadcast discussion of Smack the Pony (Channel 4, Friday) celebrated the arrival (at last!) of a bunch of funny women doing really funny women's material, without too much help from the guys. Have Victoria Wood and her ensemble, French and Saunders, *Ab Fab*, Mrs Merton and the contributions of the likes of Kathy Burke, Arabella Weir or Rebecca Front to male-dominated shows all passed unnoticed? The title sequence did include an allusion to that old feminist saying "a woman needs a man like a fish needs a bicycle". But it was an animation of a fish riding a bicycle, which suggests that fish actually do have a use for bicycles, and thus undermines the point of the proverb. I have no idea if this was deliberate or not, but *Smack the Pony* is hardly a feminist diatribe. Nor is it strikingly original in its ribbing of female foibles and preoccupations (see the list above for precursors).

The style is tantalisingly oblique, and underplayed. Most of the items were not so much sketches as fragments without build-up or punch-lines. It is the spare, minimalist style which evolved out of the fragmentary *Fast Show* via the subtler nuances of *Big Train*.

Smack the Pony is not remarkable for being female; its range of material is not that original, and its style, though new, is not pioneering. None of which matters two hoots, because the show is very clever, often surprising and extremely funny.

Some of it is just plain silly, in the puerile sort of way beloved of young Nineties women. A belching female dentist (should that be "dentiste"?) and her also belching assistant, for heaven's sake. I particularly liked the serious swimmer, doing her demanding poolside warm-up exercises before belly-flopping off the starting block and launching into an inept doggy-paddle. A lot of it was about female competition and disguised aggression.

Two factory workers on teabreak up the stakes while singing along to Nilsson's *Without You* until both are in full operatic flood. Two girls in a club loo apply ever-wider bands of lipstick until they both resemble Coco the Clown and leave looking quietly pleased with themselves. But there were no real themes or social messages. This was just a bunch of stuff the three performers happened to find

REVIEW



Paul Hoggart

funny. And mostly they were right.

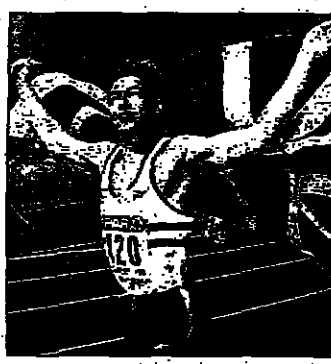
BBC2's Saturday night schedule was dominated by heavyweight documentaries about Third World issues. Western interference in developing countries and racist politics in Europe. (Brian Barron on the crisis in the Kenyan Wildlife Service for *Correspondent*, *Cold War* on US interventions in Latin America and two programmes in the *Fear and Loathing* series on racism.) So what was that sassy chick from the Boddington's adverts doing presenting a programme about Southall, London's biggest and most thriving Asian suburb? In the event, the *Big Breakfast* reporter and former model (most famous for telling Tarquil he had his "trolleys" on wrong way round) proved to be a rather effective choice. Melanie Sykes herself is one quarter Indian, in that her mother was an Anglo-Indian from Rajasthan. This was enough to get her called "Paki" at school and to implant a vague sense of affinity with Asian life. Going to Southall was a roots thing, a pilgrimage to discover a lost heritage, about which she knew surprisingly little. To her the bustling suburb was, literally and metaphorically, "Indian Terri-tory". She took us from Ramadan into Eid with the Chaudhrys, early Muslim arrivals who started the first Indian restaurant on the Broadway, and now run a small chain. We learnt about the early struggles, sweated labour and battles with the National Front, went shopping for clothes and jewellery, visited clubs, supermarkets and factories and went cruising with the lads.

The difficult issues were touched on and left. A pre-existing white community, however monochrome and dull, upped sticks and left. An elderly white resident recalled how 14 families had left her road in quick succession. We met teenage Asian girls deceiving their parents in their quest for a good time, and learnt, briefly, that domestic violence has been a persistent problem. There is a worrying growth in fundamentalist gangs from the three main religious groups, which could lead to inter-ethnic strife. Sykes did not ask about the position of Anglo-Indians, who, I understand, can be isolated and despised on the subcontinent. But then the rest of the schedule was packed with such hand-wringing, so this upbeat, sympathetic portrait of community life made a refreshing change.

Following the rocketing success of *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?*, ITV has hit us with a newly revived game show called "Who Wants A Weekend In Brussels?" Sorry, that's wrong. It's actually called **Mr and Mrs With Julian Clary** (ITV, Friday). But contestants can win up to £600 ("Ooh!" go the audience), a Julian Clary toilet seat ("Ooooh!") or a weekend in Europe ("Uuurh?"). The first couple failed to get to Florence, but didn't seem to mind. In fact, I suspected they had never heard of the place. The second couple missed out on Brussels, but they didn't look bothered either. Clary poked them with spiky *double entendres*, but even he looked bored.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (78938)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (14667)
9.00 Kilroy (T) (2328551)
9.45 Style Challenge (8345416)
10.10 The Vanessa Show (T) (7217990)
10.55 News; Weather (T) (3877377)
11.00 Change That (3887754)
11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (3784613)
11.55 News; Weather (T) (7735551)
12.00 Call My Bluff (85006)
12.30pm Wipeout (4318209)
12.55 The Weather Show (T) (53452209)
1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (17754)
1.30 Regional News; Weather (59201984)
1.40 Neighbours (T) (35341342)
2.05 Ironside (*r*) (5635087)
2.55 Through the Keyhole (*r*) (T) (6265862)
3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (6108984) **3.45** Pocket Dragon (5826735) **3.55** Bodger and Badger (9556667) **4.10** Anthony Ant (6791261) **4.20** The Littlest Pet Shop (6544483) **4.35** Misery Guts (3855087) **5.00** Newsround (4447613) **5.10** Blue Peter (9134700)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (811822)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (241)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (551)



The triple jumper Jonathan Edwards joins the sports quiz (7pm)

7.00 A Question of Sport Jonathan Edwards, Will Carling, David Batty and Mark Ramprakash join Ally McCoist and John Parrott (T) (1648)
7.30 Watchdog Healthcheck Alice Beer assesses a new herbal cellulite pill which has proved popular in Australia (T) (735)
8.00 EastEnders (T) (2416)
8.30 Mrs Merton and Malcolm Sitcom with Caroline Aherne (5/6) (T) (9803)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (7667)
9.30 Jailbirds New inmate Melissa visits the prison chaplain (T) (93236)
10.00 Panorama A report examining allegations that American spies used United Nations cover in an operation to target Saddam Hussein (T) (739174)
10.40 Animal Police A distressed duck is rescued (T) (856464)
11.10 Harbour Lights A leisure development is threatened by pollution (r) (T) (776990)
12.00 The Cover Girl Murders (1993) Six fashion models are stalked by a killer. Mystery thriller, starring Lee Majors and Jennifer O'Neill. Directed by James A. Contner (T) (9574656)
1.25am Weather (1862965)
1.30 BBC News 24 (8410323)

10.00 Labour of Love (6/6) (T) (86735) **10.30 Panorama** (T) (531754) **11.10 Animal Police** (T) (271990) **11.40 Harbour Lights** (r) (T) (662483) **12.30am FILM: The Cover Girl Murders** (T) (9597166) **1.55 News** (T) (1005897) **2.00-6.00 BBC News 24** (3418255)

BBC2

7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Pingu **7.05** Teletubbies **7.30** Inch High Private Eye **7.55** Blue Peter **8.20** Taz-Mania **8.40** Polka Dot Shorts **8.50** Juniper Jungle **9.00** Space Ark **9.10** Short Circuit **9.30** Writing and Pictures **9.45** Storytime **10.00** Teletubbies **10.30** Words and Pictures **10.45** Watch **11.00** Look and Read **11.20** Zig Zag **11.40** Landmarks **12.00** Job Bank **12.10pm** History File **12.30** Working Lunch **1.00** Juniper Jungle **1.10** The Edge
1.40 Hart-Davis on History The model village of Port Sunlight (35435735)
2.10 Sporting Greats (56122984)
2.40 News; Weather (T) (3049174)
2.45 Match of Their Day (T) (4426648)
3.25 News; Weather (T) (4496700)
3.30 The Village (r) (9216532)
3.55 Kaye Advice show (9224551)
4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (T) (6910396)
4.55 Esther (T) (5995377)
5.30 Whose House? (700)
6.00 Hit, Miss or Maybe Zoe Ball and guests review three pop videos (r) (T) (395822)
6.15 The Simpsons (r) (T) (929416)
6.35 The Ren and Stimpy Show Double-bill of surreal antics (r) (T) (785934)
7.00 Internal Affairs The work of sea fisheries inspectors (T) (2990)
7.30 Rough Guide to the World Edith Bowman and Dimitri Doganis visit the Spanish city of Barcelona (T) (377)
8.00 Disaster Reconstruction of a Japanese Boeing 747 crash which resulted in 520 deaths (T) (8938)
8.30 Food and Drink Gary Rhodes cooks halibut in a gravalax sauce (T) (7445)
9.00 Dad's Army Captain Mainwaring puts together a platoon of Local Defence Volunteers (r) (T) (5209)



Alexei Sayle looks at life reflected through comedy (9.30pm)

9.30 CHOICE **You Cannot Be Serious** Alexei Sayle presents a new series featuring comedy sketches from the archives on a variety of themes, tonight focusing on war (T) (93218)
10.00 If I Ruled the World (84377)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (818700)
11.18 Video Nation Shorts (T) (769236)
11.20 Tribe Young people on the breadline in Blackpool are given the chance to become waiters (T) (553006)
11.45 Bitesize Britain (T) (218716)
11.55 Weather (757700)
12.00 Despatch Box (73507)
12.30am BBC Learning Zone: Open University: The Lyonnais — A Changing Economy **1.30** The Palazzo Pubblico, Siena **2.00** Schools: Religious Education **3.00** Christianity in Today's World **4.00** Languages: Make French Your Business — Part 2 **5.00** Business and Training: Skills for Work **5.45** Open University: Christopher Plantin, Polyglot Printer of Antwerp **6.10** Scotland in the Enlightenment **6.35** Berthe Morisot

HTV WEST

5.30am ITV Morning News (81990)
6.00 GMTV (5599209)
9.25 Trisha (T) (8721938)
10.30 This Morning (T) (44336532)
12.15pm HTV News (T) (4824174)
12.30 ITV Lunchtime News (T) (4303377)
12.55 Shortland Street Guy and Carmen are reunited (9730087)
1.30 Home and Away Joel's future looks uncertain (T) (35443754)
1.55 The Jerry Springer Show Outrageous American talk show (T) (2537218)
2.40 Wheel of Fortune (T) (9731046)
3.10 ITV News Headlines (T) (4495071)
3.15 HTV News (T) (4494342)
3.20 CITV: Mopatop's Shop (4588735) **3.30** Kipper (9548648) **3.40** The Adventures of Captain Pugwash (9455984) **3.55** Oggy and the Cockroaches (5817087) **4.05** You'll Never Believe It (6903006) **4.30** Polterguests (174)
5.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (9280)
5.30 WEST: Garden Calendar Sue King asks Alan and Felicity Down for green-fingered advice (T) (754)
5.30 WALES: House to House The makeover team visit Penarth (T) (754)
5.58 HTV Weather (662006)
6.00 HTV News (T) (667)
6.26 HTV Crimestoppers (975880)
6.30 ITV Evening News; Weather (T) (919)
7.00 Wish You Were Here? Ghana, Cape Town, Cyprus and the Yorkshire Dales are four resorts which have won awards for encouraging environmentally friendly tourism (T) (6716)
7.30 Coronation Street Rita gives Sharon a birthday present to remember (T) (803)
8.00 Motorway Life Compilation of memorable moments from past episodes as a curtain-raiser to a new series (T) (5464)
8.30 Cop Shop Documentary based in a Hampshire police station (3/8) (T) (1071)
9.00 CHOICE **Kavanagh QC** A high-flying female politician is charged with seducing a juvenile (3/4) (T) (3464)



Noddy Holder stars as the school music teacher-turned-DJ (10.30pm

10.30 The Grimleys Neville acts as DJ at the school disco (T) (80551)
11.00 ITV Nightly News; Weather (T) (468984)
11.20 HTV News and Weather (T) (433803)
11.30 Fitz A teenage girl's murder draws Fitz into a twisted secret society (T) (38445)
12.30am Football Extra Football League highlights (61472)
1.30 World Football (r) (73912)
2.00 Marooned (1969) The head of a government agency attempts to mount a rescue mission to save three astronauts stranded in outer space. Sci-fi thriller, starring Gregory Peck. Directed by John Sturges (43660588)
4.15 Box Office America Top 10 US movie releases (41233217)
4.40 ITV Nightscreen (59044323)
5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (68236)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.20-12.30pm Central News; Weather (7999342)
12.55 Home and Away (4311396)
1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (4976990)
2.10-2.40 High Road (56222938)
3.15-3.20 Central News; Weather (4494342)
5.30 Shortland Street (754)
6.00-6.30 Central News at Six; Weather (667)
11.20-11.30 Central News; Weather (433803)
4.10am Central Jobfinder '99 (6668217)
5.20-5.30 Asian Eye (3046526)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.15pm Westcountry News (4824174)
12.27-12.30 Illuminations (7070261)
12.55-1.25 Westcountry Lunchtime Live; Weather (4311396)
1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (4976990)
2.10-2.40 Home and Away (56222938)
3.15-3.20 Westcountry News; Weather (4494342)
4.58-5.00 Birthday People (7673193)
5.30 Animal SOS (754)
6.00-6.30 Westcountry Live; Weather (667)
11.20-11.30 Westcountry News; Weather (433803)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News;** Weather (4824174) **5.30 A Weekend's Work** (1/7) (*r*) (754) **6.00-6.30 Meridian Tonight** (T) (667) **7.29-7.30 Meridian Weather** (583445) **11.20 Meridian News;** Weather (T) (244782) **11.35-12.30 Prisoner: Cell Block H** (663808) **5.00am-5.30 Freescreen** (T) (68236)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except: **12.19pm Anglia Air Watch** (7081377) **12.20-12.30 Anglia News and Weather** (7999342) **5.25-5.30 Take It On** (4682268) **5.30-6.00 Anglia News Monday Extra;** Weather (T) (754) **6.00-6.30 Anglia News** (T) (667) **11.19 Anglia Air Watch** (977342) **11.20-11.30 Anglia News and Weather** (T) (433803)

S4C

Starts: **6.00am Sesame Street** (r) (88531984) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (62034803) **8.30 Yn Fyw O'r Oscars** (97884445) **9.00 Ysgolion:** The English Programme (99944006) **9.25 Schools at Work** (29585938) **9.30 Geography Junction** (74845209) **9.45 Book Box** (74833464) **10.00 Stage Two Science** (91698648) **10.15 Scotscapes** (91508071) **10.30 Place and People** (51309532) **10.50 Stop, Look, Listen** (84319731) **11.00 Deuparth Gwaith** (15744280) **11.15 The Mix** (15734803) **11.30 Taste of the Times** (r) (T) (68009193) **12.00 Right to Reply** (T) (97888261) **12.30pm Sesame Street** (T) (26613006) **1.00 Planed Plant** (T) (67587700) **1.30 Classic Cars** (3/8) (T) (26612377) **2.00 Time Team** (T) (74199984) **3.10 What's In It for Me?** (T) (75979174) **3.30 Collectors' Lot** (T) (67810984) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (T) (67902919) **4.30 The Montel Williams Show** (T) (67991803) **5.00 Planed Plant** (90983629) **5.30 Countdown** (T) (67915483) **6.00 Newyddion 6** (T) (93231716) **6.10 Heno** (T) (86721919) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (90996193) **7.30 Newyddion** (T) (67992532) **8.00 Dudley** (T) (90809613) **8.30 ABC y Cynulliad** (T) (90991648) **9.00 Taro Naw** (T) (68915700) **9.30 Sgorio** (T) (65168367) **10.35 FILM: The Englishman Who Went Up a Hill But Came Down a Mountain** (T) (49232822) **12.20am FILM: Pump Up the Volume** (T) (80814255) **2.15 Diwedd 4.00 Ysgolion**

CHANNEL 4

6.00am Sesame Street (r) (61648)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (12367)
9.00 Schools: The English Programme (1972939) **9.25** Schools at Work (8649648) **9.30** Geography Junction (8586803) **9.45** Book Box (8581358) **10.00** Stage Two Science (9798396) **10.15** Scotscapes (9788919) **10.30** Place and People (1262342) **10.50** Stop, Look, Listen (8532613) **11.00** Rat-A-Tat-Tat (3995716) **11.15** The Mix (3918667)
11.30 Taste of the Times (r) (T) (8342)
12.00 Sesame Street (T) (78716)
12.30pm Bewitched (r) (T) (4920919)
1.05 Pet Rescue (T) (41411984)
1.30 Little Gems Nostalgia (r) (90831342)
1.35 The Three Stooges (r) (25678700)
1.55 Phffft! (1954) An unhappily married couple decide to get a divorce and find themselves new partners. Comedy, starring Judy Holliday and Jack Lemmon. Directed by Mark Robson (T) (75033822)
3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (975)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (532)
4.30 Countdown (T) (3872754)
4.55 Montel Williams (T) (5980445)
5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (396)
6.00 Roseanne The harassed housewife's snooty cousin comes to visit (r) (T) (209)
6.30 Hollyoaks Tony and Jas try to patch up their problems (T) (261)
7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (200984)
7.50 Farmed Out A visit to a border collie sanctuary to find out why farmers are giving up so many of their trusty sheepdogs (T) (902716)



Fletcher Christian's great grandson Tom retells the famous tale (8pm)

8.00 CHOICE **To the Ends of the Earth** Investigation into the mysterious death of the *Bounty* mutineer Fletcher Christian (T) (1377)
9.00 CHOICE **Cutting Edge: Playing for England** The story of England's first official World Cup brass band (T) (8613)
10.00 The Englishman Who Went Up a Hill, But Came Down a Mountain (1995) Welsh villagers decide to scupper the plans of an English cartographer intending to downgrade the status of their local mountain. Comedy drama, starring Hugh Grant. Chris Monger directs (T) (345280)
11.45 Smack the Pony A new comedy sketch show (r) (T) (545377)
12.20am Suddenly (1954) Frank Sinatra plays an assassin who takes over a suburban house as part of a plan to kill the US President. Thriller, with Sterling Hayden. Directed by Lewis Allen (8510615)
1.40 Dispatches (*r*) (T) (2640897)
2.15 Powerhouse Political news (16830)
2.45 Right to Reply (T) (8445120)
3.10 The Client Reggie investigates police corruption (r) (8236033)
4.00 Schools: Middle English (8583323) **5.20** Geographical Eye (7827878)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport Headlines, sport and business (3402434)
7.00 WideWorld Part two. The history of Hardwick Hall (r) (T) (8763667)
7.30 Milkshake! (2288193)
7.35 Wimzie's House (r); 5 News Update (4267822)
8.00 Havakazoo (r) (2480445)
8.30 Dappledown Farm (r); 5 News Update (2489716)
9.00 Was It Good for You? (r) (3513223)
9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (r) (4049464)
9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show More from the award-winning chat show host (9839303)
10.20 Sunset Beach Carmen finds out about Antonio's transfer (T) (3236006)
11.10 Leeza (6981895)
12.00 5 News at Noon (T) (2483532)
12.30pm Family Affairs Declan makes a deadly error (r) (T); 5 News Update (1861754)
1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Grant gets the keys to the family cabin (T) (8762938)
1.30 The Roseanne Show Entertainment show, presented by the outspoken comedian; 5 News Update (1860025)
2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (9749754)
2.30 Good Afternoon Lifestyle magazine, incorporating real-life soap *Liverpool Mums*, Eric Knowles with *Selling the Family Silver* and word game *Cryptogram*; 5 News Update (1274342)
3.30 A Time to Triumph (TVM 1986) Drama, starring Patty Duke as a resourceful woman who becomes a military helicopter pilot to support her ailing husband. With Joseph Bologna. Directed by Noel Black (T) (2899939)
5.20 5 News (97141993)
5.30 100 Per Cent The computer-generated quiz show (2086822)
6.00 5 News; Weather Kirsty Young rounds up the day's stories (T) (2083735)
6.30 Family Affairs Dave is in an apologetic mood (T); 5 News Update (8902209)
7.05 Baby's Day Out (1994) A baby loose on the streets of New York causes chaos with his adventurous antics while being pursued by a trio of hapless kidnappers. Comedy from the makers of *Home Alone*, starring Joe Mantegna, Lara Flynn Boyle, Joe Pantoliano and Brian Haley. Directed by Patrick Read Johnson (T); 5 News Update (87653358)
9.00 Breach of Faith: Family of Cops II (1996) The crime-busting clan return to investigate the murder of a priest by mobsters — but underestimate the danger the case will put them in. Drama sequel, starring Charles Bronson, Angela Featherstone, Barbara Williams and Kim Weeks. Directed by David Greene (T); 5 News Update (81848209)
10.50 Dr Fox's Chart Update Pop hits (8912071)
10.55 V Humans and aliens line up for the final showdown (5/5) (r) (25969716)
12.30am Live and Dangerous Action from the Winter X Games (72776439)
4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H Joan is shocked to learn her reign at Wentworth is over (7601694)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (8375101)

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SATELLITE, CABLE AND DIGITAL

● For further listings see Saturday's *Vision*

SKY ONE

7.00am Count Duckula (60483) **7.30** The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (13754) **8.30** Hollywood Squares (23280) **9.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (33377) **10.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (35174) **11.00** Guilty! (55938) **12.00** Jenny Jones (48087) **1.00pm** Mad About You (59754) **1.30** Jeopardy (51551) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (13464) **3.00** Jenny Jones (53445) **4.00** Guilty! (65280) **5.00** Star Trek: Voyager (2919) **6.00** America's Dumbest Criminals (9551) **6.30** Friends (3713) **7.00** The Simpsons (3648) **7.30** The Simpsons (6087) **8.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (83174) **9.00** First Wave (57498) **10.00** Seinfeld (96325) **11.00** Friends (73209) **11.30** Star Trek: Voyager (…235) **12.30am** The Commish (25 694) **1.30** Long Play (8457089)

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels.
To view any film telephone 0990 800888
SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 51)
Fallen (1998)
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60)
Amistad (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59)
Flubber (1997)
Starship Troopers (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58)
Butcher Boy (1997)

SKY PREMIER

5.00am Hollywood Buzz (78209) **6.00 Amy** (1981) (75551) **8.00 Hello Again** (1987) (80218) **10.00 Angels in the Attic** (1997) (51938) **12.00 Amy** (1981) (910667) **1.45pm Hello Again** (1987) (57130358) **3.30** The Barry Norman Interview: Richard Attenborough — Both Sides of the Camera (3377) **4.00 Angels in the Attic** (1997) (8193) **6.00** The 71st Academy Awards (4486008) **10.00 The Full Monty** (1997) (885483) **11.35 Powder** (1995) (736803) **1.30am Feast of July** (1995) (87579) **3.30 Major League** (1989) (923304)

SKY MOVIEMAX

5.10am Possums (1997) (39034649) **7.00** Femmes Fatales: Uma Thurman (45551) **7.30** Movie Magic: Animals on the Rampage (1247938) **8.15** Action Heroes: Andy Garcia (2962716) **9.00 Roseanne: An Unauthorised Biography** (1994) (17280) **11.00 Something Borrowed, Something Blue** (1997) (91484) **1.00** Femmes Fatales: Uma Thurman (44822) **1.30** Movie Magic: Animals on the Rampage (5318280) **2.15** Action Heroes: Andy Garcia (7380071) **3.00 Roseanne: An Unauthorised Biography** (1994) (51272) **5.00 Something Borrowed, Something Blue** (1997) (17629) **7.00 A Fight for Justice** (1996) (32087) **9.00 Stranger in the House** (1996) (88829) **11.00 Showdown** (1994) (762613) **12.40am Loverboy** (1989) (595014) **2.20 The Island of Dr Moreau** (1996) (241743) **4.00 The Addiction** (1997) (8910697)

SKY CINEMA

4.00pm The Yellow Canary (1943) (7853735) **6.00 Pony Soldier** (1952) (2193984) **8.00 Catch-22** (1970) (2278629) **10.00 Fistful of Dollars** (1964) (7809303) **11.40 The Bawdy Adventures of Tom Jones** (1976) (7988342) **1.15am The Rainbow** (1988) (7334897) **3.10 Gypsy** (1962) (35305762)

FILMFOUR

6.00pm Sweet Smell of Success (1957) (40106700) **7.35** Synup (2842358) **8.00 The Madness of King George** (1994) (4883803) **10.00 A Private Function** (1984) (8875071) **11.40 LA Takedown** (TVM 1989) (6826261) **1.15am Darkness in Tallinn** (1993) (7905110) **2.50 The Train** (1965) (58103985) **6.00** Close

TNT

9.00pm MGM: When the Lion Roars (33633006) **11.00 The Postman Always Rings Twice** (1946) (68608261) **1.15am Operation Crossbow** (1965) (91065589) **3.15 Demon Seed** (1977) (13598120) **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Max Power **8.00** Scottish Football **9.00** Racing News **9.30** Aerobics **10.00** Snow Show **10.30** The Worthington Cup Final **12.00** Aerobics **12.30pm** What a Weekend **1.00** Football Special **2.30** Spanish Football **4.30** Powerboat and Jetsport World **5.00** Max Power **6.00** Sports Centre **6.30** What a Weekend **7.00** League Review **8.00** Football Special **10.00** Sports Centre **10.15** You're On Sky Sports! **11.00** Football League Review **12.00** Sports Centre **12.15am** You're On Sky Sports! **1.00** Football Special **3.00** Football League Review **4.00** Sports Centre **4.15** Close

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics **7.30** Racing News **8.00** US Golf **11.00** Golf **12.00** Scottish Football **1.00pm** Rugby Union **2.30** Moto-Plus **3.00** Super League **5.00** Football League Review **6.00** Powerboat and Jetsport World **6.30** V-Max **7.00** World Motor Sport **10.30** V-Max **11.00** Total Sport **11.30** Powerboat and Jetsport World **12.00** International Bowls **2.00am** Sports Centre **2.15** Close

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00am Basketball **2.00pm** Snow Show **2.30** What A Weekend **3.00** US Golf **6.00** Snow Show **6.30** Total Sport **7.00** Fish TV **8.00** International Bowls **10.00** Wonderful World of Golf **11.00** Golden Age of Motor Racing: A to Z of Motor Sport **11.30** Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am Motocross **8.00** Short Track Speed Skating **9.00** Cross-Country Skiing **10.30** Cart **12.00** Ski-Jumping **1.30pm** Cross-Country Skiing **2.30** Tennis **4.00** Live Women's Tennis **5.30** Dog Sled Racing **6.00** Live Figure Skating **9.00** Tennis **10.00** Football: Eurogoals **11.30** Rally **12.00** Dog Sled Racing **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Crossroads **7.30** Neighbours **7.55** EastEnders **8.30** The Bill **9.00** The Bill **9.30** Pride and Prejudice **10.30** Rhoda **11.00** Dallas **11.55** Neighbours **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** Bugs **2.00** Dallas **2.55** The Bill **3.25** The Bill **3.55** EastEnders **4.30** Rhoda **5.00** All Creatures Great and Small **6.00** Dynasty **7.00** Ever Decreasing Circles **7.40** Dad's Army **8.20** The Brittas Empire **9.00** Casualty **10.05** Silent Witness **12.00** The Bill **12.30am** The Bill **1.00** Blackadder Goes Forth **1.35** French and Saunders **2.05** Dangerfield **3.00** Screenshop

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Within These Walls **7.00** Holding the Fort **7.30** The Odd Couple **8.00** Families **8.30** The Many Wives of Patrick **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** Emmerdale Farm **10.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **11.00** Gentle Touch **12.00** Classic Coronation Street **12.30pm** Emmerdale Farm **1.00** The Many Wives of Patrick **1.30** Me and My Girl **2.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **3.00** The Love Boat **4.00** The Professionals **5.00** Hart to Hart **6.00** Emmerdale Farm **6.30** Classic Coronation Street **7.00** The Professionals **8.00** The Benny Hill Show **9.00** The Sweeney **10.00** Hale and Pace **10.30** Wheeltappers and Shunters' Social Club **11.00** Men and Motors

Extensive live coverage of the World Figure Skating Championships in Helsinki (Eurosport, 6pm)

CARLTON SELECT

5.00pm What's Cooking? **5.30** Gridlock **6.00** My Two Wives **6.30** Our House **7.00** Shine On, Harvey Moon **8.00** Birds of a Feather **8.30** A Kind of Living **9.00** The Ruth Rendell Mysteries **10.00** Big Sky **11.00** Hill Street Blues **12.00** My Two Wives **12.30am** Gridlock **1.00** Close

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Gummi Bears **6.25** Classic Toons **6.35** Tale Spin **7.00** Classic Toons **7.10** Aladdin **7.35** 101 Dalmatians **8.00** Goof Troop **8.25** Classic Toons **8.45** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **9.00** The Adventures of Spot **9.05** Animal Shelf **9.15** Pocket Dragons **9.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **9.55** Toothbrush Family **10.00** Bite Size **10.10** Rosie and Jim **10.30** The Big Garage **10.45** PB and J Otter **11.00** Sesame Street **12.00** Adventures of Spot **12.05pm** Animal Shelf **12.15** Pocket Dragons **12.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **12.55** Toothbrush Family **1.00** Bite Size **1.10** Rosie and Jim **1.30** Big Garage **1.45** PB and J Otter **2.00** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **2.30** Quack Pack **3.00** Little Mermaid **3.30** Art Attack **4.00** 101 Dalmatians **4.30** Hercules: The TV Show **5.00** Recess **5.15** Pepper Ann **5.30** Smart Guy **6.00** Teen Angel **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00 FILM: You Lucky Dog** (1998) **8.25** Honey, I Shrunk the Kids: The TV Show **9.10** Double Dinosaurs **10.00** Home Improvement **10.30** The Wonder Years **11.00** Touched By An Angel **12.00** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Adventures of Dodo **6.05** Power Rangers Turbo **6.55** Spiderman **7.20** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.30** Donkey Kong Country **8.00** Hero Turtles **8.25** Incredible Hulk **8.50** Iron Man **9.15** Fantastic Four **9.40** X-Men **10.05** Casper **10.30** Oggy and the Cockroaches **10.55** EekIStravaganza **11.05** Bobby's World **11.30** Life with Louie **11.55** Home to Rent **12.05pm** Dennis and Gnasher **12.30** Donkey Kong Country **1.00** Mowgli **1.25** Ace Ventura **1.55** The Incredible Hulk **2.20** Iron Man **2.45** Fantastic Four **3.10** X-Men **3.30** X-Press **3.35** Spiderman **4.00** Goosebumps **4.25** Hero Turtles: The Next Mutation **4.50** Casper **5.00** Dennis and Gnasher **5.30** Ace Ventura **6.00** Donkey Kong Country **6.30** EekIStravaganza **6.55** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.00** Close

NICKELODEON

6.00am Rocko's Modern Life **6.30** Bruno the Kid **7.00** CatDog **7.30** Rugrats **8.00** The Wild Thornberrys **8.30** Arthur **9.00** Children's BBC **10.00** Wimzie's House **10.30** Papa Beaver Stories **11.00** The Magic School Bus **11.30** PB Bear/Budgie the Little Helicopter/Animal Antics/Family Ness **12.00** Rugrats **12.30pm** Blue's Clues **1.00** Bananas in Pyjamas **1.30** Little Bear Stories **2.00** Paddington Bear/Lizzie's Library/Portland Bill/Mr Men **2.30** Children's BBC **3.00** Children's BBC **3.30** Doug **4.00** Three Friends and Jerry **4.30** Rugrats **5.00** Sister Sister **5.30** Kenan and Kel **6.00** Renford Rejects **6.30** Moesha **7.00** Close

BRAVO

8.00pm Martial Law **9.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **9.30** Cops **10.00** Late Lounge **10.30** Erotic Confessions **11.00 FILM: Revenge of the Calendar Girls** (1995) **1.00am** Erotic Confessions **1.30** Late Lounge **2.00** Martial Law **3.05 FILM: Stripper** (1986) **5.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **5.30** Cops **6.00** Close

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Jenny **7.30** Grace Under Fire **8.00** Ellen **8.30** Spin City **9.00** Drop the Dead Donkey **9.30** Whose Line is it Anyway? **10.00** Frasier **10.30** Cheers **11.00** Seinfeld **11.30** The Larry Sanders Show **12.00** Late Night with David Letterman **1.00am** Taxi **1.30** Frontline **2.00** Dr Katz **2.30** Tibs and Fibs **3.00** Nightstand **3.30** Abbott and Costello **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

SATELLITE: 8pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY

7.30am Bloomberg Information Television **8.00** Sightings **9.00** Battlestar Galactica **10.00** Quantum Leap **11.00** Dark Shadows **11.30** New Alfred Hitchcock **12.00** Twilight Zone **1.00pm** Tales of the Unexpected **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Amazing Stories **2.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **3.00** Battlestar Galactica **4.00** The Incredible Hulk **5.00** Sightings **6.00** Time Trax **7.00** Quantum Leap **8.00** The Cape **9.00** Babylon 5 **10.00 FILM: Gamera: The Guardian of the Universe** (1997) **11.45** Sci-Focus Special **12.00** VR.5 **1.00am FILM: Creepshow** (1982) **3.00** Dark Shadows **3.30** Dark Shadows **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

6.00am Today's Gourmet **6.30** Yan Can Cook: The Best of Asia **7.00** Homemaker **7.30** Period Rooms **8.00** Wedding Story **8.30** A Baby Story **9.00** Simply Painting **9.30** The Great Gardening Plot **10.00** Instant Gardens **10.30** Two's Country Cooking **11.00** The Diceman **11.25** The Home and Leisure House **11.30** Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures **12.00** Our House Down Under **12.30pm** Antiques Trail **1.00** Our House **1.30** Home Savvy **2.00** New Yankee Workshop **2.30** Home Again with Bob Vila **3.00** This Old House with Steve and Norm **3.30** Charlie West Fishing **7.30** Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **4.30** The Car Show **5.00** Hitler-Stalin Dangerous Liaisons **6.00** Wildlife SOS **6.30** Untamed Africa **7.30** Futureworld **8.00** Nick's Quest **8.30** Twisted Tales **9.00** The Day the Earth Shook **10.00** Amazing Earth **11.00** Flightpath **12.00** Amazing Earth **1.00am** Hitler-Stalin Dangerous Liaisons **2.00** Close

ANIMAL PLANET

12.00am The New Adventures of Black Beauty **12.30pm** Hollywood Safari **1.30** Crocodile Hunter **2.00** It's a Vet's Life **2.30** Human/Nature **3.30** Harry's Practice **4.00** Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures **4.30** Animal Doctor **5.00** Pet Rescue **5.30** Crocodile Hunter **6.00** New Adventures of Black Beauty **6.30** Lassie **7.00** Rediscovery of the World **8.00** Animal Doctor **8.30** Going Wild with Jeff Corwin **9.00** Wild at Heart: Mountain Gorillas **9.30** Emergency Vets **10.00** Deadly Season **11.00** Breed All About It: German Shepherds **11.30** Emergency Vets **12.00** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Mystery of the Whale Lagoon **7.30** Route 66: The Mother Road **8.00** The Harem of an Ethiopian Baboon **9.00** Spirit of the Sound **10.00** Lost Worlds: Pompeii **11.00** Lost Worlds: Mystery of the Neanderthals **11.30** Lost Worlds: Clues to the Past **12.00** On the Edge: Tsunami — Killer Wave

HISTORY

4.00pm D-Day: Total Story D-1 **5.00** Project Cancelled: The Fairey Rotodyne **6.00** The Greatest Pharaohs: Legacy of the Nile **7.00** Fabulous Fortunes: Lucky Strike — Taking a Gamble **7.30** I, Witness: Moving Pictures

CARLTON FOOD

9.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **10.00** The Restaurant Show **10.30** First Taste **11.00** Worrall Thompson Cooks **11.30** Ideal Home Cooks **12.00** Food Network Daily **12.30pm** Nordic Nosh **1.00** Coxon's Kitchen College **1.30** Tessa's Tastebuds **2.00** Lunch with Ed Baines **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Cooked in a Flash **3.30** Ideal Home Cooks **4.00** Grape Expectations **4.30** Gordon Ramsay's Passion for Flavour **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Tiny and Crew **6.20** 10 plus 2 **6.40** Greedysaurus and the Gang **6.45** Philbert the Frog **6.50** Polka Dot Shorts **7.00** Practical Parenting **7.05** Professor Bubble **7.30** Caillou **7.35** Bug Alert **7.55** Practical Parenting **8.00** Barney and Friends **8.25** Bobaloos **8.30** Tiny Tales **8.35** Tiny and Crew **8.50** Practical Parenting **9.00** Special Babies **9.30** The Roseanne Show **10.00** The Jerry Springer Show **10.50** Maury Povich **11.40** Brookside **12.10pm** Through the Keyhole **12.40** Rescue 911 **1.10** Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction **1.40** Maury Povich **2.30** Special Babies **3.00** The Living Room **3.50** Michael Cole **4.40** Through the Keyhole **5.10** The Heat is On **5.40** Ready, Steady, Cook **6.15** The Jerry Springer Show **7.05** Rescue 911 **7.35** Animal Rescue **8.00** LA Law **9.00 FILM: The Substitute Wife** (1994) **11.00** The Sex Files II **12.00** Close

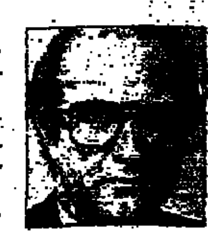
ZEE TV

5.00am Amar Kathayen **5.30** Sa Re Ga Ma **6.00** Your Zindagi **6.30** Geet Gata Chal **7.00** Faith: Hindu **7.30** Daily News **8.00** Ru-Ba-Ru **8.30** Tara **9.00** Jaan **9.30** Bane Bi Apni Baat **10.00** Pal-Do-Pal **11.00** Jhat Pat Khana **11.30** Parampara **12.00 FILM** **3.00pm** Bangla TV: Nokhatrer Rat **3.30** Ikke Pe Ikka **4.00** Akbar Birbal **4.30** Quiz Contest **5.00** Neeyat **5.30** Chahat Aur Nafrat **6.00** Music Mag **6.30** Cha Cha Cha **7.00** Ghar Jamai **7.30** Filmi Baatein **8.00** News **8.30** Mausam **9.00** Sa Re Ga Ma **10.00** The Big Debate **11.00** Shapath **11.30** Bunt Two **12.00** News **12.30am** Karobari Duniya **1.00** Bangla TV **1.30** Parmartan **2.00 FILM** **4.30** Revathi

PROFILE 44
SAB is king of the Castle in brewing

BUSINESS

JOBS FEAR 45
Roger Bootle on employment and euroland



Rival suitors await Gucci decision

By Fraser Nelson

THE board of Gucci was last night locked in talks to choose between a $5 billion (£3 billion) takeover bid from Bernard Arnault, chairman of LVMH, or a $3 billion cash injection from François Pinault, his arch-rival.

Domenico De Sole, chief executive of Gucci, called a full board meeting in Amsterdam at lunchtime yesterday. The meeting went on into the night.

The company has provisionally agreed to M Pinault's deal, which would involve the creation of enough new Gucci shares to give the French billionaire a 40 per cent stake.

M Arnault has said that he will launch an $85-a-share bid only if Gucci rejects the Pinault deal immediately.

Signor De Sole is understood to be arguing that Gucci should reject M Arnault's offer. He is trying to persuade his fellow board members that Gucci would lose its creative freedom as part of LVMH's vast luxury goods stable — which includes Kenzo, Christian Dior and Christian Lacroix.

This would force M Arnault into making an unconditional hostile bid. At present, LVMH has made a written proposal, but this stops well short of a takeover offer.

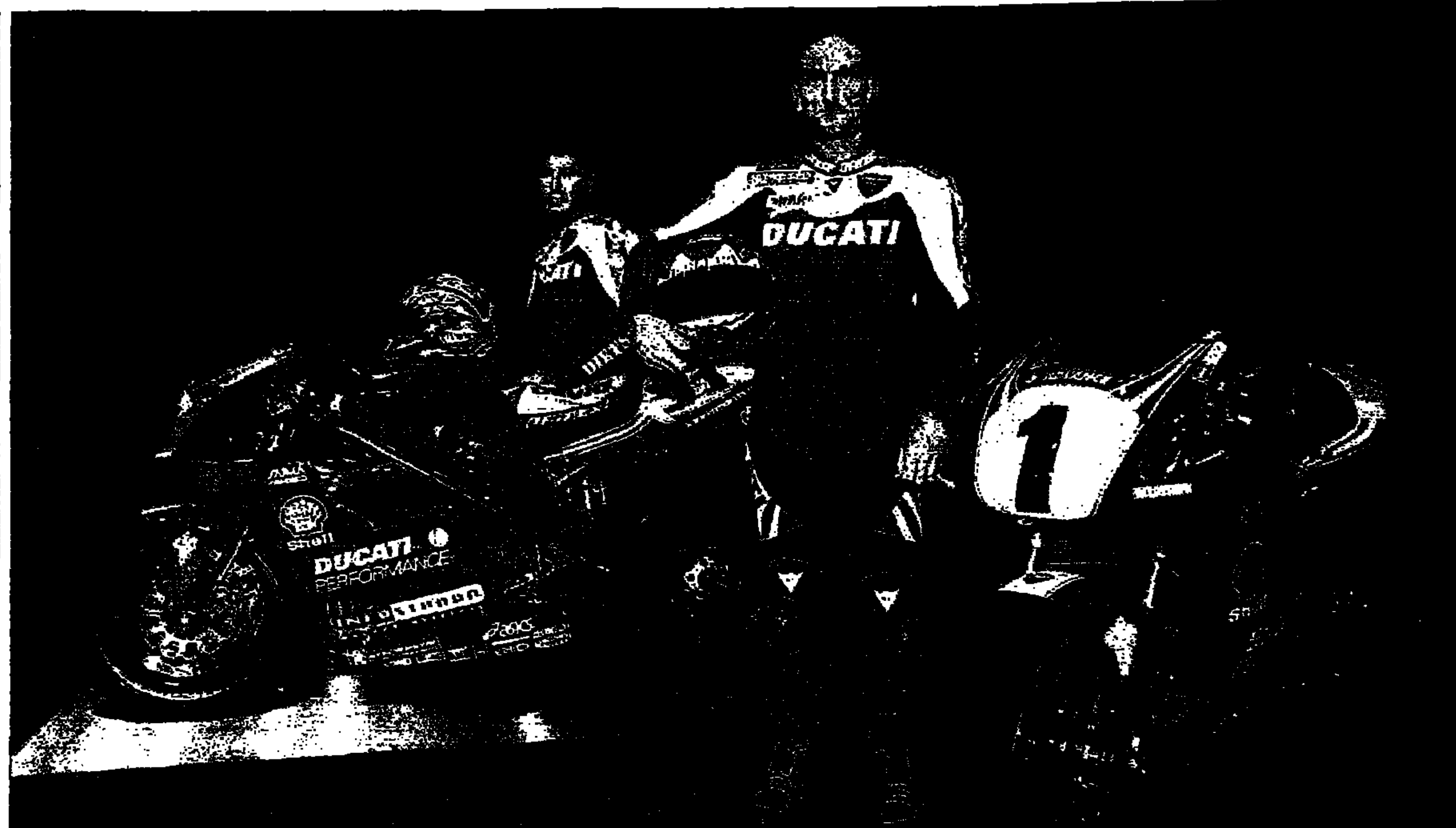
If LVMH were to make the bid hostile, M Pinault would be free to counter with his own offer for the whole company.

Although the $85-a-share offer values Gucci at more than double its level in October last year, observers believe that M Arnault will pay over the odds to stop M Pinault starting a rival fashion empire.

M Pinault, whose PPR retail empire is capitalised at about the same level as LVMH, has spent £616 million buying Sanofi's perfume empire — which includes Yves Saint Laurent brands.

PPR would give this, at cost price, to Gucci as a "wedding present" to help it to start a new fashion empire that could rival LVMH.

MICHAEL COOPER / ALLSPORT



Riding high: Carl Fogarty, standing, with team-mate Troy Corser, is reigning Superbike champion. Ducati will hope for similar success when the company floats

Ducati clocks up $497m tag for flotation

DUCATI, the Italian motorbike manufacturer rescued from near-collapse three years ago, has been given a $497 million (£303 million) price tag for its forthcoming flotation on the New York Stock Exchange (Fraser Nelson writes).

Investors led by David Borderman, the American financier who recently took a stake in GPA, the aviation group, will make a £68 million profit from the flotation — only two and a half years after bailing out the company.

They will receive £140 million in cash and retain £103 million shares in Ducati. They took control with £72 million of equity in 1996.

The flotation will be another milestone in the chequered history of Ducati, which started life as a family engineering company 72 years ago.

The success of its motorbikes was followed by a sharp financial decline and the company was sold by the Italian Government to Claudio and Gianfranco Castiglioni for about £3 million in 1983. The brothers invested heavily but this left the company almost bankrupt in 1996.

The flotation will raise £33 million for the company, which will be used to repay debt.

Carl Fogarty, the British motorcyclist and reigning Superbike champion, is signed to Ducati.

LINKS
WEBSITE: http://www.ducati.it/html/regular_home_uk.html

British firms face tax threat in US

By Jason Nissé

A RADICAL US tax proposal that could come into force as early as next month could cost British companies hundreds of million of dollars of extra taxes and leave them open to punitive fines.

The move is an attempt by the Clinton Administration to clamp down on corporate tax shelters in a move it says would raise the US Government $7.2 billion (£4.3 billion) over five years.

The proposals could also hit British-based lawyers, accountants and investment bankers who help to set up tax-efficient structures for European companies that own businesses in the US.

It is potentially as large a threat to the City as the proposed European Union withholding tax, which has been the subject of fierce lobbying from the City over the past few weeks.

The City is concerned that the withholding tax could damage the £2,000 billion a year eurobond market. However, it is understood that the Treasury is working on a compromise with the European Commission that would remove eurobonds from the scope of the withholding tax.

The new US proposals were briefly mentioned in the Federal Budget, which was announced by Bill Clinton last month. However it will be formally brought into force when it is "marked up" by the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee or the Senate Finance Committee. This is expected next month.

The proposals will not be debated or finalised until later this year but the marking-up process means they will be brought into force from the date they are marked up.

The complex proposals essentially outlaw any corporate structure designed to minimise US taxes. These include the setting-up of non-resident middle companies to take advantage of double-taxation treaties — The Netherlands is a favoured location for British companies buying US businesses — the setting-up of joint ventures, certain forms of transfer pricing within a company and the liquidation of US holding companies to avoid a tax bill.

The law would allow the US Government not only to outlaw what it defines as "corporate tax shelters" or "tax avoidance transactions" but also would allow it to charge a 25 per cent "excise tax" on fees received by a financial adviser working on such tax minimisation proposals. The hardest hit by this excise tax could be accountancy firms. All the top five accountants heavily market tax minimisation plans to be used by UK companies buying in the US.

"The move could cause widespread uncertainty in the tax-planning community," said Stephen Fiamma, a London-based partner of Jones, Day, Reavis & Pogue, the US law firm. Mr Fiamma believes that the proposals may face strong opposition in the US, but that the Democrats may see hitting big business, and especially foreign business, as a vote winner.

The UK is the largest foreign investor in the US and British companies have more investment in the US than in any other country.

LINKS
WEBSITE: www.jonesday.com

Byers may agree to lift Rover aid

By Adam Jones

STEPHEN BYERS, the Trade and Industry Secretary, may be willing to increase the £118 million aid package offered to BMW to secure the future of Longbridge, the Rover car plant in Birmingham.

The original offer was made before a BMW board meeting last week and, though it has not yet been rejected, it is understood to fall well short of what the Bavarian carmaker had requested.

A Department of Trade and Industry spokeswoman yesterday said that it was up to BMW to make the next move: "We are just waiting for BMW to approach us. They haven't formally said no to the offer."

BMW had been looking for more than £180 million in grant aid to help to fund development and production of a new range of cars to replace the Rover 200 and 400 models. The new cars would be built at Longbridge, Britain's largest car plant, securing 50,000 jobs in the region. In return, BMW was offering to invest about £1.7 billion at Longbridge, tearing down the old factory and building a new one.

There were suggestions at the weekend that the DTI had wanted to offer more than £118 million but was restrained by the Treasury, either through a reluctance to spend that much on subsidy or a desire to create a tougher bargaining position.

The DTI spokeswoman said yesterday: "I am not aware of any row with the Treasury or that the Treasury has stopped us from doing anything."

Manfred Schoch, the vice-chairman of BMW's supervisory board, said the board had been ready to approve the Longbridge investment on Thursday, if the grant offer had been near £200 million.

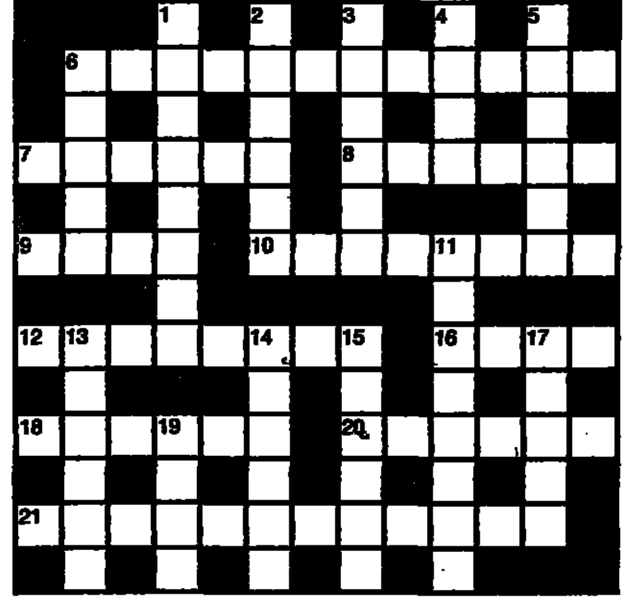
Tony Woodley, a veteran union negotiator in the car industry, gave warning that the plant could be closed simply because of a misunderstanding in the high-pressure talks.

The aid on offer is thought to be available only through phased payments. The Government has said that productivity and training improvements must be made at Rover.

BMW has threatened to take the work to Hungary, to benefit from cheaper labour. There has even been talk in Germany of the new models being built in the US using excess capacity at BMW's plant in Spartanburg, South Carolina. This is unlikely given that the new models would be primarily for European markets.

BMW says Rover lost £645 million in 1998 because of the strong pound and provisions for 2,500 job cuts. This has led to Rover being dubbed "The English Patient" in Germany.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1671

ACROSS
6 Giving an assurance (12)
7 Angry outcry (6)
8 (Design) set into surface (6)
9 Competition: group of people (4)
10 Action involving new point of law (4,4)
12 Canvass personally; thick slice of bread (8)
16 Rapid narrows current; ginger root (4)
18 Little spasm; temporary difficulty (6)
20 Plush fabric: antler cover (6)
21 Say (word) wrong (12)

DOWN
1 Wrecker (8)
2 Natural skill (6)
3 Moral principles (6)
4 Calf meat (4)
5 Is jealous (6)
6 Yellow-rind cheese (5)
11 George IV's queen (8)
13 Father of Horus (Egypt. myth) (6)
14 Walk delicately, silently (6)
15 Russian dog-reflex scientist (6)
17 Cheshire town; sounds like *operators* (5)
19 Egyptian Christian (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1670
ACROSS: 1 Lake 3 Mercator 9 Synge 10 Blacken 11 Exalted 12 Lute 14 Anoint 16 Decent 18 Scam 19 Absalom 22 Prussia 23 Zonal 24 Set/aside 25 Teas
DOWN: 1 Las Vegas 2 Kangaroo court 4 Embody 5 Charlie 6 Take the plunge 7 Rank 8 Heat 13 Stimulus 15 Nemesis 17 Canard 20 Size 21 Opus

It's Hardern . . . on to Hoddle . . .

By Fraser Nelson

MICHAEL HARDERN, the self-proclaimed king of Britain's carpetbaggers, has given up his pursuit of the Nationwide and Britannia building societies — and has asked Glenn Hoddle to take his place.

Mr Hardern believes the former England football coach will stand in as a candidate for Nationwide's board because it played such an active role in his downfall after Mr Hoddle ran into trouble when he made comments about the disabled and reincarnation.

Mr Hardern told *The Times* yesterday: "The Nationwide did Hoddle in. They spent £15 million on sponsoring the England team without asking their members, and then they made sure he lost his job."

He intends to contact Mr Hoddle through Eileen Drewery, the faith healer he met at a book signing last month.

His decision to retire comes amid allegations that he was caught rifling through the Prince of Wales's private letters when serving as a butler.

This is only one of many blows to Mr Hardern's campaign. Last year he was photographed in a Britannia branch wearing a sarong. He said: "I think I've been getting up the noses of the Carpetbaggers' Association. I think they doubt my credibility."



Hoddle: possible substitute

The Britannia has already printed 1.2 million board nomination forms with Mr Hardern's name on them.

Mr Hardern said: "I have no chance at the Britannia: if I get elected they will chuck me out the next day. I'm now going to start a political career in Europe, setting up a Holy Roman Empire to replace the European Commission."

Diary, page 20

Refco pair get Liffe life bans

By Jason Nissé

TWO former traders with Refco Overseas, one of the largest brokers on Liffe, are to be given life bans and the firm's former head of trading is to be given a year's ban in one of the biggest scandals to hit the futures and options market.

In total, five former Refco traders are to receive punishments from Liffe. The US-owned broker is also appealing against a fine imposed by Liffe, believed to be in the region of £1.2 million, over the scandal in which the traders allegedly bought futures and options contracts ahead of placing large deals for clients, a practice called front running.

The two traders receiving life bans are Malcolm Duke and Nick English. Paul Hunt, who resigned earlier this month as head of trading at Refco, receives a year's ban. Two other traders, Mark Wilkinson — who also left Refco earlier this month — and Greg Bryce, have been handed fines.

The broker is now undergoing a shake-out after hiring David Campbell from Deutsche Morgan Grenfell as its new managing director.

M&S to sell stores

By Fraser Nelson

MARKS & SPENCER may sell part of its £4.5 billion shop portfolio in a radical change of strategy that could provide a £1 billion cash injection.

Peter Salsbury, chief executive, is considering selling the largest of its 290 stores and leasing them back at an agreed long-term rent. M&S yesterday said that this is one of many options being examined in its strategic review.

The company said: "Sale and leaseback is quite a straightforward issue for any company to be looking at. But nothing has been decided yet, and nothing will be decided until the strategic review is complete."

M&S has the option of restricting the sale to its 40 smallest stores, which could be worth about £200 million before leaseback agreements.

Traditionally, M&S has built and owned its own shops while its rivals usually rent from a landlord. It now has about £3.5 billion tied up in land and buildings and about £1 billion in fixtures, fittings and work in progress.

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